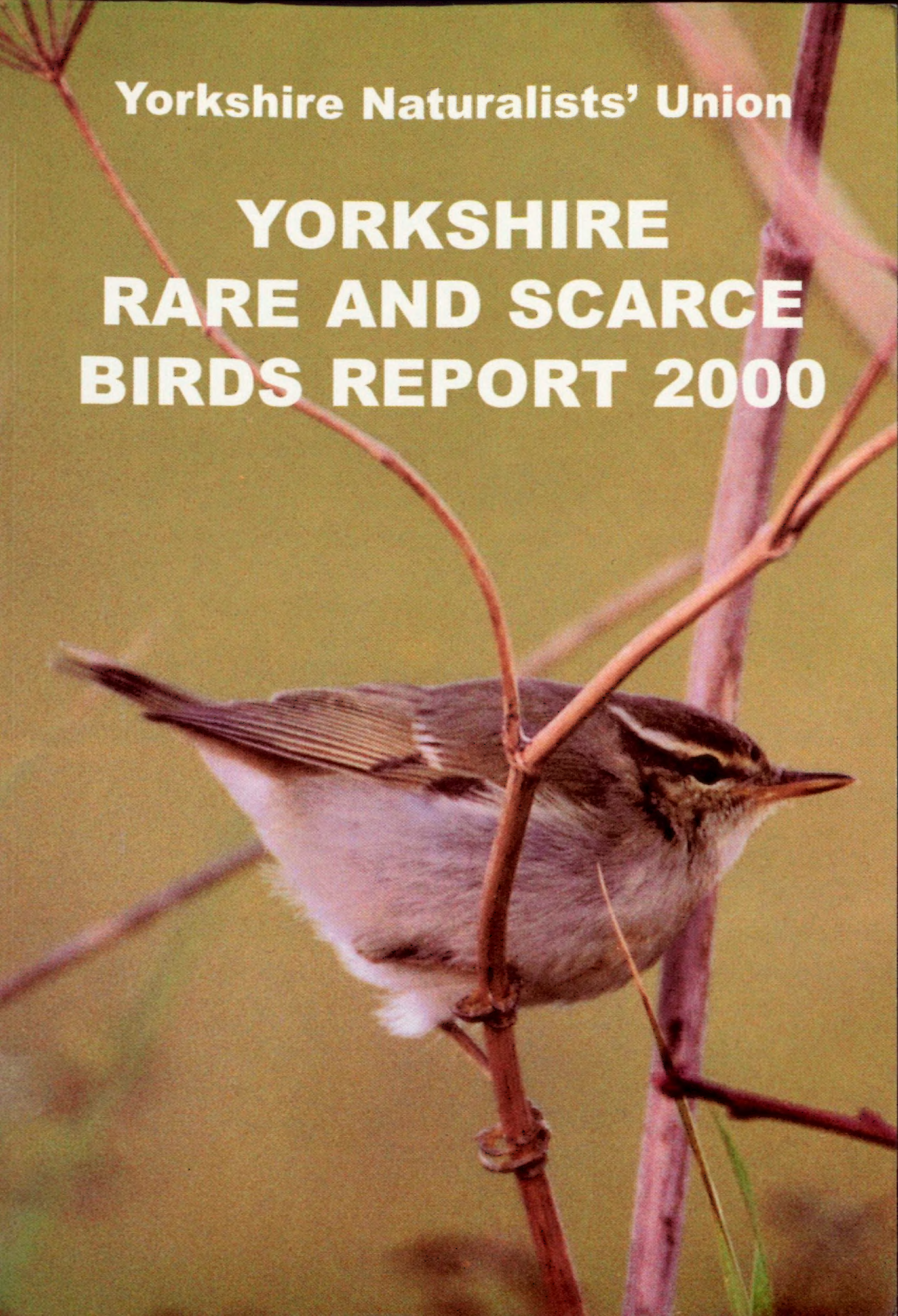
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

YORKSHIRE RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS REPORT 2000



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YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

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INTRODUCTION

Recording

In general, the speed and standard of record submission has been very encouraging, with many individuals, sites, clubs and societies showing improvement on previous years. Particularly pleasing has been the prompt submission of records from Blacktoft Sands and Fairburn Ings RSPB reserves this year. There has however, been some exceptions to this, and it is disappointing to report that some individuals who birdwatch at Bempton RSPB, Flamborough Head, Grimston and Southfield Reservoirs did not support any of their claimed observations of rare and scarce species with descriptions.

The Committee was nevertheless kept busy by the number of European Honey Buzzard descriptions in circulation, although when compared to the number of claimed sightings on pagers and in some local reports, it is evident that not all observers bothered to support their claims with a description. Such records cannot be passed on for national analysis as referring to anything other than "possibles". Written submissions of 173 birds were received from a potential 258 birds reported through the various media between 19th September and 10th October (a disappointingly low total). Of these, 138 were considered acceptable, whilst 31 reports of 35 birds were not. Those records not accepted were generally because the written descriptions did not establish beyond doubt that Common Buzzard was eliminated, although some of these birds may well have been European Honey Buzzards. For the most part, the descriptions that failed tended to come from the west of the county where Common Buzzards are more numerous, or were towards the end of the influx period, or involved views that were either brief or distant.

This report acknowledges the assistance of the editors' of the local bird reports in the county, and could not have been produced without their work. The Vice-County Recorders then undertook the onerous task of collating the information into a readable account. Thanks are also owed to Pete Greaves for comments on the manuscript; to Richard Baines, Carl Corbidge, Yuri Gabrilovich, Paul Leonard, Anthony Norris and Andy Roadhouse for their artwork; and to the photographers Mike Ashforth, Jenny Butterworth, Carl Corbidge, John Harriman and Iain Leach.

Highlights

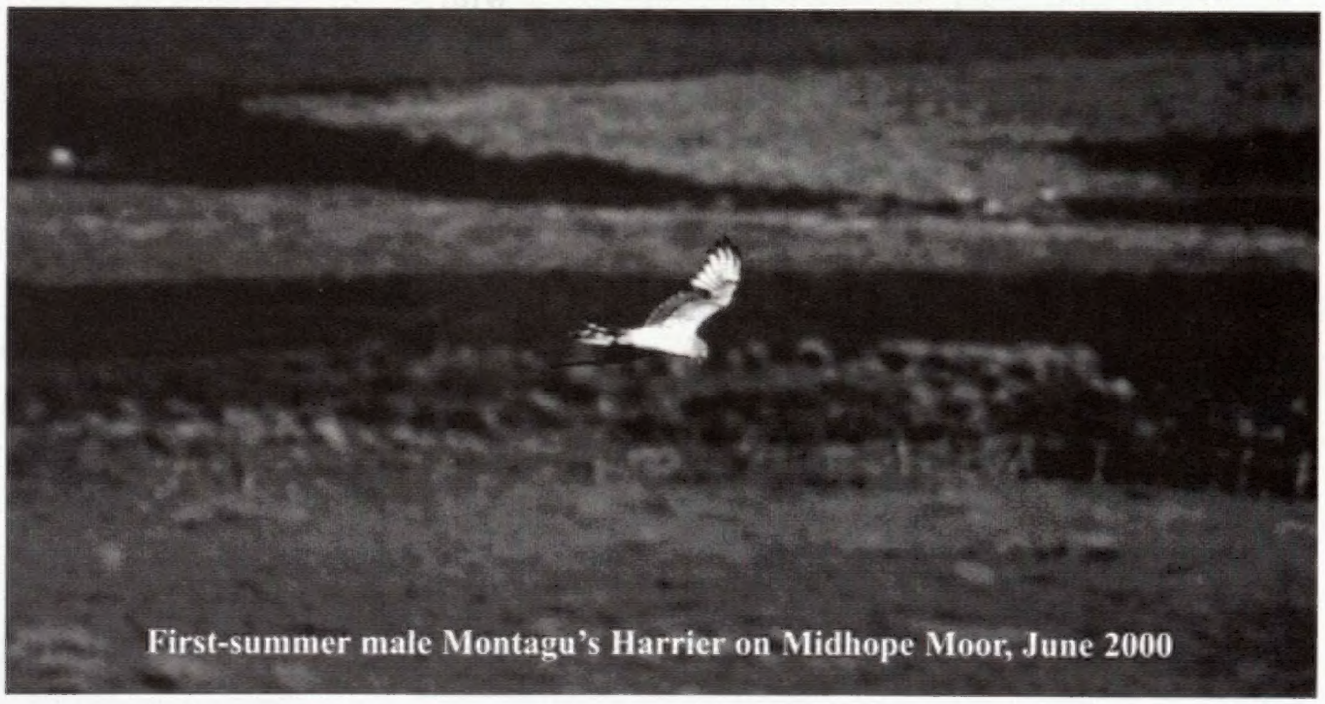
The year 2000 was full of ornithological surprises and will be remembered for several special events: the remarkable invasion of European Honey Buzzards that occurred in September; the fall of Radde's Warblers at Spurn at the end of that month, and the county's first Chimney Swift that a few fortunate observers observed at Spurn on 6th August. Other highlights included Yorkshire's fourth Pied-billed Grebe at West Tanfield, a superb drake Blue-winged Teal at Saltmarshe

Delph, an obliging Ring-billed Gull at Scalby Mills, a breeding-plumaged Whiskered Tern at Flamborough Head, a noteworthy total of three Tawny Pipits and a splendidly obliging first-summer male Rosy Starling at Ripon. There was a particularly strong spread of rare warblers, including the county's seventh Melodious Warbler and third Desert Warbler.

The European Honey Buzzard invasion was a unique event for modern times, caused by an unusual combination of weather conditions that induced continental birds to cross the North Sea in unprecedented numbers. In addition, there was a small increase in the numbers reported on spring passage, perhaps reflecting a consolidation of the breeding population in northern England and Scotland. This year a national census of this species was completed, and the results are awaited with interest (though unfortunately, no indication of an increase in breeding stock within the county was forthcoming).

Records of a few other species are also increasing. Little Egrets are beginning to expand from their strongholds on the south coast of England. A total of 135 reports of Ospreys were received indicating that they are no longer a rare sight as they pass through the county, and in future, we can expect some wandering individuals from the newly established populations elsewhere in England. The number of Common Cranes also showed an increase, and, though a few wandering individuals may account for most of the records and continental migrants are always likely, the continued presence of a small breeding population in Norfolk encourages speculation that some birds may be prospecting for potential breeding sites. The number of Roseate Terns reported from the coast (113 reports) has massively increased, reflecting their success in establishing small breeding colonies just to our north.

On the down side, it was a poor year for Horned Larks in both winter periods.



First-summer male Montagu's Harrier on Midhope Moor, June 2000

CALENDAR 2000

January

It was relatively mild at the start of the year, and although there was some frost inland during the second half of the month, the lack of cold weather and its associated movements was noticeable. A brief spell of northerly gales on 14th and 15th also brought little of note. A popular Ring-billed Gull remained at Scalby Mills from New Year's Eve and also from the previous year were several wintering Great Bittern at regular sites in South and West Yorkshire, a Great Grey Shrike in the SK58 area and a small number of Water Pipits. Less expected was a Little Egret seen regularly in the Brough area of East Yorkshire, perhaps a harbinger of things to come. The best bird was probably a Little Bunting, identified in a bird watchers garden on 14th at Shepley near Huddersfield, which then remained until the end of March.

On the coast, a Red-necked Grebe lingered in Filey Bay all month and there was a thin scattering of Slavonian Grebes at various sites, but only three were found inland. These were accompanied by a reasonable showing of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls in coastal areas, including a controversial gull in Whitby harbour showing some characteristics of *L. glaucoides kumlieni.*

February

The weather remained mild this month also, encouraging the widening belief in global warming. The numbers of scarce divers and grebes on the coast consequently remained low, although Glaucous and Iceland Gulls continued to show well, with more being found inland. Two Egyptian Geese turned up at Brough fuelling speculation as to their origin, and the regular drake Ring-necked Duck eventually returned to the Aire Valley. Wintering Firecrests were found in both Sheffield and Leeds.

March

Fresh north-westerlies in the first week were followed by westerlies in the second, but by 11th, dry and sunny weather associated with high pressure had settled in. A Firecrest was found at Spurn on 8th, and a Common Crane, which appeared at nearby Sammy's Point, Easington on 13th, subsequently began a tour of VC 61. Eventually settling back at Sammy's Point, it began a protracted stay and did much to enliven a normally quiet time of year for the coastal birdwatcher.
From the 18th southerly winds set in, perhaps accounting for an early Osprey at Howden on 25th, but the month ended with a spell of cooler northerlies, which deterred many early migrants. A Horned Lark inland at Ingbirchworth Res from 26th March to 15th April was a pleasant surprise, since only a disappointing four had been reported from the coast so far during the early winter. A pair of wandering Egyptian Geese continued to spark some debate.

April

The cold weather associated with northerlies at this time of year, continued until the 5th April and a female Rustic Bunting was found at Spurn during this period. Milder westerly airstreams followed unti! 9th, when another spell of northerlies ensued. Despite this, a further eight Osprey's were sighted by the 10th, and the first of a good run of Eurasian Spoonbills in the county appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 12th.
North-easterlies on 12th followed by easterlies and heavy rain on 13th would have made ideal fall conditions in another month, and although a number of Hawfinches were noted, the best bird to appear was a Great Grey Shrike at Flamborough Head found on 16th. Inland however, a Rosy Starling turned up in suburban Ripon, remaining to be seen from 15th to 24th. At least one wandering Little Egret appeared, or re-appeared, at Leven on 16th and 17th and at Blacktoft Sands on 24th.
From the 18th, southerly winds prevailed for the rest of the month, accompanied by frequent bouts of rain. A Hoopoe was photographed at Grimston on 18th, a Tawny Pipit also obliged the camera at Sammy's Point, Easington on 19th and 20th, with another at Boulby on 24th. A Wryneck was reported from Bempton on 24th, a

superb male Red-breasted Flycatcher at Flamborough Head on 27th and a Purple Heron at Fairburn on 28th.

May

The month started with light to moderate easterlies, though perversely the first star find was a drake Blue-winged Teal at Saltmarshe Delph on 1st. Fine dry weather then settled in from 4th to 7th, bringing two Eurasian Spoonbills and two Bluethroats to Filey, although the first Eurasian Dotterel was reported from Burbage Moor on 6th, the same day as the first Temminck's Stint appeared at Beacon Ponds NR. A Desert Warbler found at Sammy's Point on 7th, proved to be the most rare and obliging bird of this period.
Cool weather with high pressure followed in the second week, with northerlies shifting to north-easterlies on 10th and finally to easterlies on 13th. A Night Heron at Southfield Res and a Red-rumped Swallow at Tophill Low were both found on 9th, and a Red-breasted Flycatcher was discovered at Spurn on 10th. Easterlies at Spurn on the 13th quickly brought results in the form of a Kentish Plover, the second Tawny Pipit of the year and a male Black-faced Bunting, though the latter was eventually deemed an escape by BBRC, a view not shared by many who saw the bird on the first of a two day stay. A European Honey Buzzard passed through Blacktoft Sands on 14th, whilst back at Spurn, a European Serin and three Common Cranes further enhanced the provenance of yesterday's bunting. Five Montagu's Harriers graced the county during this period. On 15th a Greater Short-toed Lark was found at South Gare and on 16th a Red-necked Phalarope was at Spurn.
The wind turned north-easterly on 17th, then more easterly on 18th. On the evening of 19th, a Great White Egret was found at Tunstall, and a number of Little Egrets and Eurasian Spoonbills were reported during the following days. The male Red-necked Phalarope from Spurn was re-found at BPNR on 21st, remaining there for over a week.
Mild weather characterised the rest of the month, accompanied by some "April showers", incorporating hail on the 27th. The wind turned briefly to the south-east on 26th, bringing a Bluethroat to Spurn next day, but a return to strong south-westerlies from the 27th brought Montagu's Harriers to Swillington Ings and Filey on 27th, the first Roseate Tern past Flamborough Head on 29th and a Melodious Warbler to Spurn on 31st.

June

June started out wet, shortly to become even wetter, with torrential rain and moderate easterlies on 3rd and 4th. It was no surprise that some continental migrants arrived, namely a Bluethroat to Filey, a Red-backed Shrike and the first of up to six Common Rosefinches to Spurn, and both summer-plumaged Whiskered Tern and a male Subalpine Warbler to Flamborough Head. In addition, three

Eurasian Golden Orioles and twelve more Red-backed Shrikes were found between the 5th and 7th, including one inland at Farnham. One of the highlights of the summer was the nesting of two pairs of Common Rosefinch at Spurn, whilst a first-summer male Montagu's Harrier commenced a lengthy sojourn in the Midhope area.

From the 7th to 20th westerlies predominated, followed by light south-westerlies and some quite summery weather at the month end. More Montagu's Harriers were noted, with a male at Saltburn on 8th and a female at Filey on 10th, plus a European Honey Buzzard which passed over Spurn on 11th, the day a Great White Egret commenced a tour of the county. Ospreys and Roseate Terns continued to pass through, and Common Cranes were noted on both Hatfield and Thorne Moors. A drake Ring-necked Duck near Aldbrough on 14th was unexpected. From 25th, it become quite dull, with few new birds apparent.

July

Eurasian Spoonbills were conspicuous beginning with one at Filey Dams on 1st, then three at Blacktoft Sands from 4th that remained through to August and singles later in the month at both Fairburn Ings and Wheldrake Ings. Two Spotted Crakes were found at Settle on 5th, the start of a protracted stay until September. The highlight of a month full of surprises was perhaps the Pacific Golden Plover that performed admirably at Brough Haven from 6th to 25th. Stiff competition however came from a Broad-billed Sandpiper at Rother Valley CP and a female Grey Phalarope in full breeding plumage at Horbury Wyke, also found on 6th. On 8th, a Black-headed Bunting was discovered at Flamborough Head remaining to 12th, and on this last date a Subalpine Warbler was trapped at Spurn Point. The rest of the month saw a steady passage of Velvet Scoters and Roseate Terns, with some returning Ospreys later on. A small passage of Storm Petrels was noted from 15th to 17th, and tape luring of that species began towards the month-end. On 28th, a summer-plumaged White-winged (Black) Tern flew south at Spurn, but even this was not the final surprise of the month since a Marsh Sandpiper dropped into Filey Dams on 30th, but unfortunately showed only briefly, causing much displeasure amongst the majority of Filey listers.

August

Steady numbers of Little Egrets, Eurasian Spoonbills, Velvet Scoters, Ospreys and Roseate Terns were recorded throughout the month. The first rarity however was a White-rumped Sandpiper on the River Humber at Kilnsea on 5th, quickly followed by a Caspian Tern that ventured briefly into the county at Bran Sands on the same day. The most surprising sight of the year occurred on the evening of 6th, when the county's first Chimney Swift flew north at Spurn, much to the amazement of a small group of fortunate (or should it be dedicated?) observers.
Mid-month between 12th and 21st brought the bulk of a monthly total of 47 Balearic Shearwaters to Flamborough Head and three were also recorded at Filey during the same period. An early Great Northern Diver passed Spurn on 15th and the first Black-throated Diver was at Flamborough Head on 28th. In a generally quiet month for waders, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Nosterfield NR on 22nd and a Temminck's Stint at Fairburn Ings from 27th. Drift migration involving scarce passerines commenced on 22nd with a Barred Warbler in Kilnsea, followed by a Wryneck at Spurn on 24th, an Ortolan Bunting at Filey on 26th, a Booted Warbler at Spurn on 26th and 27th, a Greenish Warbler also there from 27th to 29th and a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Flamborough Head on 28th. Northerly winds then brought seabirds to the fore, particularly to Flamborough Head where a Grey Phalarope appeared on 30th and a Cory's Shearwater passed by on 31st. The spotlight soon returned to Spurn however, where an Arctic Warbler found on 31st rounded off an eventful month for the Observatory. This was the third species of rare warbler to be found at Spurn in just a few days.

September

There was some exciting sea-watching to be had on the first two days of the month bringing Cory's Shearwaters and Sabine's Gull to Flamborough Head, and singles of Balearic and Cory's Shearwater to Cowbar in North Yorkshire. On 3rd however, conditions improved even more, resulting in five reports of Great Shearwater from four sites along the coast, and a supporting caste of single Cory's and two Balearic Shearwaters, two Long-tailed Skuas and a Black Guillemot. On land, a fall of migrants on 2nd included single Corn Crake, at least seven Wrynecks, a Barred Warbler, two Common Rosefinch, a Red-backed Shrike, whilst Flamborough Head was graced with a Greenish Warbler, which remained to 4th. Over the next two days, four more Red-backed Shrikes, a Common Rosefinch and two more Wrynecks were found, along with a further Subalpine Warbler at Spurn Point. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Coatham Marsh from 7th to 9th and another was at Spurn before quickly moving to nearby Sammy's Point from 8th to 11th. This was part of a national influx at the time. The first Icterine Warbler was at Filey on 10th, when an Ortolan Bunting was seen at Spurn, with two Common Rosefinch at Spurn the next day. A Common Crane lingered in the Aldbrough area during the first fortnight of September.

It was then relatively quiet until 15th when a Cory's Shearwater passed Burniston and a Leach's Petrel passed Spurn. The 16th produced a total of five Sabine's Gulls from places as wide apart as South Gare and Spurn, where a Subalpine Warbler was considered to be the same individual as first seen earlier in the month. On 19th a White-winged (Black) Tern was at South Gare, an Icterine Warbler was found at Flamborough Head and the first Yellow-browed Warbler turned up at Spurn. On the evening of the 19th, a European Honey Buzzard roosted in Kilnsea, the first of what was to become an unprecedented influx of the species. Next day at least 29 European Honey Buzzards were reported, mostly from the coast, including 15 flying south at Spurn. A continental origin for these birds was indicated by the supporting caste of six Ospreys, two Eurasian Dotterel, a Red-necked Phalarope, two Wrynecks, a Red-throated Pipit (at Whitestone Point, Whitby), an Icterine Warbler, nine Yellow-browed Warblers and a Red-backed Shrike. On the 21st, a further 13 European Honey Buzzards were reported, and at least another 33 on 22nd, when a second influx appeared to occur on the coast. Over the following two weeks, European Honey Buzzards were reported from a number of inland sites, with some appearing to linger before moving south through central England and leaving the country to cross the Channel. Of course other species were associated with the influx, including a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Filey on 24th, plus several Richard's Pipits, Barred Warblers, Yellow-browed Warblers and Red-backed Shrikes noted along the coast to the month end. One of the most unexpected events of the year was the multiple arrival of at least four Radde's Warblers to Spurn on the 30th, combined with seven Yellow-browed Warblers, a Barred Warbler and a Little Bunting. These birds appeared simultaneously shortly after lunchtime on the 30th, though noticeably few other migrants were associated with their arrival.

October

The month began with four new Radde's Warblers being found at Spurn on 1st, producing an incredible day total of seven for the day, since three of yesterday's birds were still present. Strangely, only one other Radde's Warbler was found, a bird at Filey on the 2nd. The last handful of European Honey Buzzards were noted during the first nine days, and on 8th and 9th, there was a scattering of late Ospreys. A long-staying Arctic Warbler was found in Kilnsea on 7th and four more Yellow-browed Warblers were reported between 8th and 15th. Nearctic waders were still passing, with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Filey Dams on 5th, Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Marske on 7th and 8th and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Filey Dams briefly on 17th. Good finds inland included Great Northern Diver and Sabine's Gull at Pugney's CP on 7th and a White-winged (Black) Tern at Tophill Low from 15th to 19th.

A small fall was noted along the coast on 21st and 22nd, producing three Yellow-browed Warblers and a Firecrest, followed by a Richard's Pipit at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough and a Red-backed Shrike at Coatham Marsh in the ensuing couple of days.

Sea watching picked up from 27th, with reports of both Great Northern and Black-throated Divers, European Storm Petrels, Long-tailed Ducks and Grey Phalaropes received from coastal watch points.

November

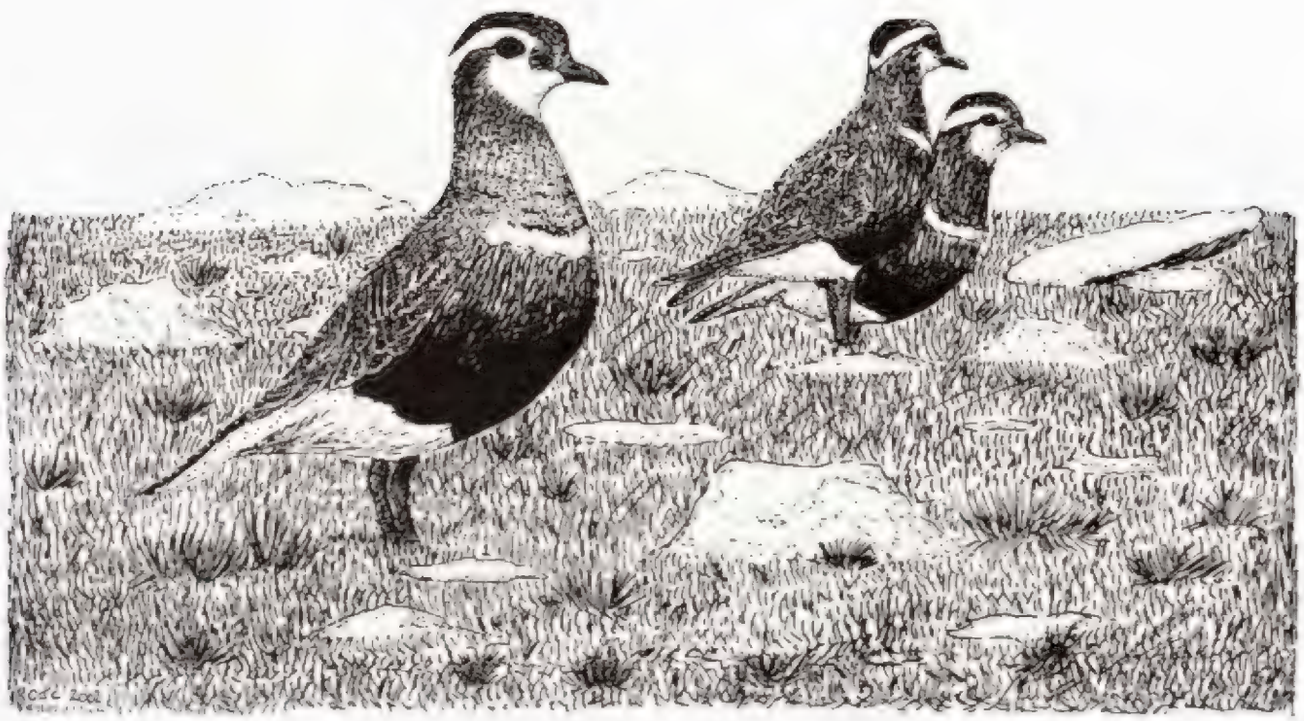
Eight Great Northern Divers were noted on 1st of the month, including four at Long Nab, Burniston and three in Filey Bay, with four more being found scattered along the coast on 4th. On 7th, one was found inland at Dewsbury SF and the same bird later at Pugney's CP. A late Osprey passed over Filey on 5th. Passerines included a lingering Richard's Pipit at Spurn on 2nd and a Horned Lark, scarce this autumn, at Spurn on 4th. The 6th produced a late fall of migrants from Flamborough Head northwards, when five Firecrests and four Pallas's Leaf Warblers dropped on to the coast. More Pallas's were located on 7th with one at South Gare and two at Spurn, with another two Richard's Pipits also at Spurn, but a short staying Dusky Warbler at Flamborough Head was probably the best discovery. More rare birds followed shortly; a Hume's Leaf Warbler at Filey and an Isabelline Shrike at Flamborough Head, both on 8th, maintained the eastern flavour. New birds continued to appear along the coast and the 11th brought two more Hume's Leaf Warblers, this time one each to Whitestone Point and Flamborough Head. On 12th a fine male Desert Wheatear was discovered on Boulby Cliffs, remaining until 14th, with a Sabine's Gull showing well at nearby Saltburn in the same period. Richard's Pipits continued to turn up, these including individuals at Long Nab on 11th, Barmston on 12th, whilst two at Filey CP on 13th consolidated a good spell at the location.

The late influx of migrants largely died down after 13th, with the expected showing of scarce grebes and divers noted during the rest of the month, and

returning Great Bitterns and Water Pipits also noted. A rare inland Pomarine Skua was seen at Edderthorpe Flash on 16th, and a late Long-tailed Skua passed Spurn on 25th. The 26th saw a small movement of Velvet Scoter on the coast.

December

Three Little Auks were noted at Flamborough Head and two at Long Nab on 2nd, with three Red-necked Grebes on the coast the next day. At least three Firecrests had filtered inland, with singles found at Skelton Lake and in Balby, South Yorkshire at the beginning of the month and one at Fairburn Ings from 29th. A drake Ring-necked Duck resided at Harthill Res from 3rd to 5th; then on 13th, a Grey Phalarope turned up in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, re-appearing on 25th and remaining to the year-end. Another Horned Lark was found at Spurn on 16th, with three at Barmston on 24th. One of the few inland highlights over the Christmas period was an increase in reports of white-winged gulls, mostly from inland reservoirs and their associated gull-roosts.



Eurasian Dotterels on northern fell in May

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2000

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the **YNU** and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (**BBRC**). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (6th edition, 1992), updated BOU 2001. Changes that took effect from January 2001 have been implemented retrospectively (e.g. Green-winged Teal). All **BOURC** Category A and Category C species that comprise species on the British List are included in the Systematic List.

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

BPNR	Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Puffin and High Eske Nature Reserve
Res	Reservoir
RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve

Species totals in the status line in this report are based, where relevant, on records accepted and published by **BBRC**.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

The year's records began with the long staying individual from 1999, which continued to reside at Scaling Dam Res until 9th March. Additional reports in January included one at Skinningrove on 4th, singles at Spurn on 15th, 16th and 31st, at South Gare on 23rd and a further 4 singles off Flamborough Head between 16th and the month end. None were recorded in February until 20th, though 8 occurred off Flamborough Head in the last third of that month and singles were at Spurn on 26th and 28th. Met with more frequently during March when singles at Saltburn on 3rd, Burniston Bay on 10th and Kilnsea on 31st, 2 were at Long Nab, Burniston on 11th March and 8 off Flamborough Head between 5th March and the month end. The only 2 records in April were at Flamborough Head on 6th and 18th, before spring movements concluded with singles flying north at Spurn on 8th and 25th May.

Autumn began with 3 singles at Flamborough Head during the last 4 days of August, then in September, additional birds off Flamborough Head on 6th, with 2 there on 14th and another on 16th. Further singles in September included one flying north past Long Nab, Burniston on 14th, one at Spurn on 15th and one at Hornsea on 30th. In early October 3 were seen off Flamborough Head with 2 more on 14th; also singles at Spurn on 5th and 7th, and one flying north off Filey Brigg on 28th. More frequent during November: a total of 14 individuals passing offshore at Flamborough Head on 11 dates, including 3 on 2nd; 7 singles being seen off Spurn on various dates throughout the month; and additional singles off Long Nab, Burniston on 1st, on the sea off Hornsea on 7th, at Reighton on 9th, Filey on 17th and lastly at Scalby Mills on 24th. A juvenile found Jackson's Bay, Scarborough very much to its liking, staying from 23rd November until at least 8th December, whilst remaining December records involved 5 singles from Flamborough Head up to the 17th, and 5 also from Spurn, until the final one of the year on 26th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

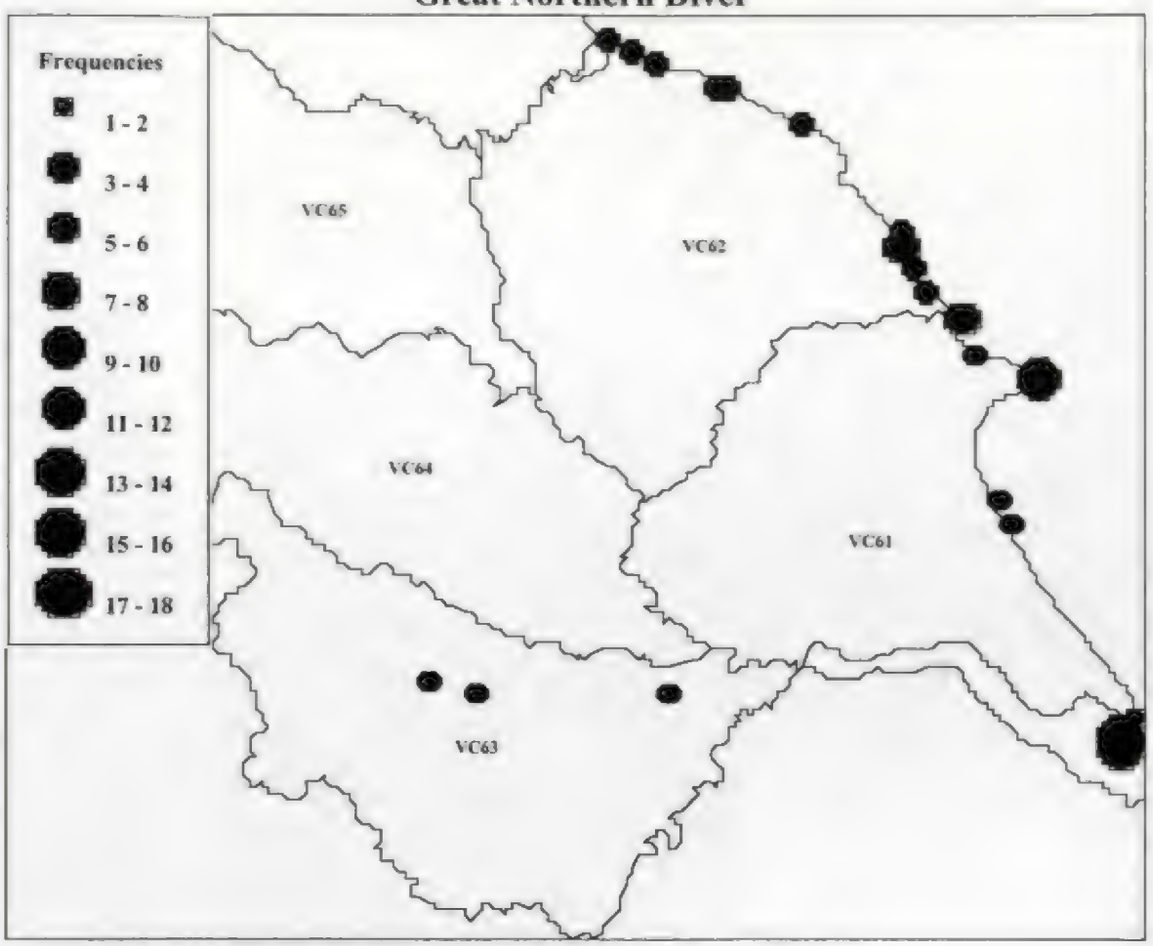
Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A single long-staying bird off South Gare from the start of the year was still present in early March. Further singles during January were at Skinningrove on 3rd, Cayton Bay on 9th and Marske on 30th, whilst Flamborough Head hosted 2 individuals during the month, and Spurn, a single offshore from 13th January which stayed for the next 3 days. An unusual sighting on 17th January was 3 birds together on the sea off Cromer Point, and in nearby Filey Bay, a bird found on 22nd was present until at least 6th February. Also during February 4 birds were seen on different dates off Flamborough Head, 2 flew south and one north off Filey Brigg on 13th, and a single was offshore at Redcar on the 8th. Only 3 were seen in March: one at Burniston Bay on 17th, with one each at Kilnsea and Atwick Gap on 31st. On 8th April one was off Filey Brigg and 2 off Flamborough Head, with a further one in Jackson's Bay on 11th. A single flew north off Cromer Point on 3rd May, and the last 2 of the spring were both on 29th May, one at Reighton and one at Flamborough Head.

The only one recorded during August was off Spurn on 15th. In September singles put in appearances at both Cowbar and Flamborough Head on 2nd, another was at Flamborough Head the next day, followed by singles at both Burniston Bay and Spurn on 24th. During October 4 singles passed offshore at Spurn between 5th and 25th, plus a further 2 there on 27th, Flamborough Head enjoyed 4 singles late in the month and Hornsea recorded one flying north on 28th and one flying south on 31st. An inland bird was found at Pugney's CP on 7th October, staying overnight, before flying off high to the northeast at 07:45 on 8th (PS *et al*). November records began early with one at South Gare on 1st, on which date 4 flew south off Long Nab, Burniston in just 4 hours of observations. A single bird, present in Filey Bay from 1st November, was joined by an additional 2 from the 11th, with 2 birds remaining on and off until the year-end. In addition, a summer-plumaged bird was seen in Filey Bay on 4th November, the same day as a

second single was off South Gare, followed by birds at Reighton on 6th, at Sandsend Bay from 19th until 22nd, a juvenile at Burniston Bay on 27th and another single at South Gare on 30th. A total of 10 individuals were seen off Spurn during November, including 2 on 8th and 3 on 26th whilst a total of 12 were seen off Flamborough Head on 9 different dates, with 4 on the 12th the day maximum there. Interesting inland records were of one flying east up the River Calder near Dewsbury SF (MB) and one, presumably the same bird, on the boating lake at Pugney's CP (FAW), both on 7th November, and a first–year bird at Southfield Res on 30th November (CF: AS). In December one occurred off Spurn on 1st, 3 were off Flamborough Head on 3rd before the final sightings of the year on the 16th when 4 birds were seen; one at Spurn, 2 at Flamborough Head and more noteworthy, a juvenile on Broomhead Res, the 9th Barnsley area record.

Great Northern Diver



PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

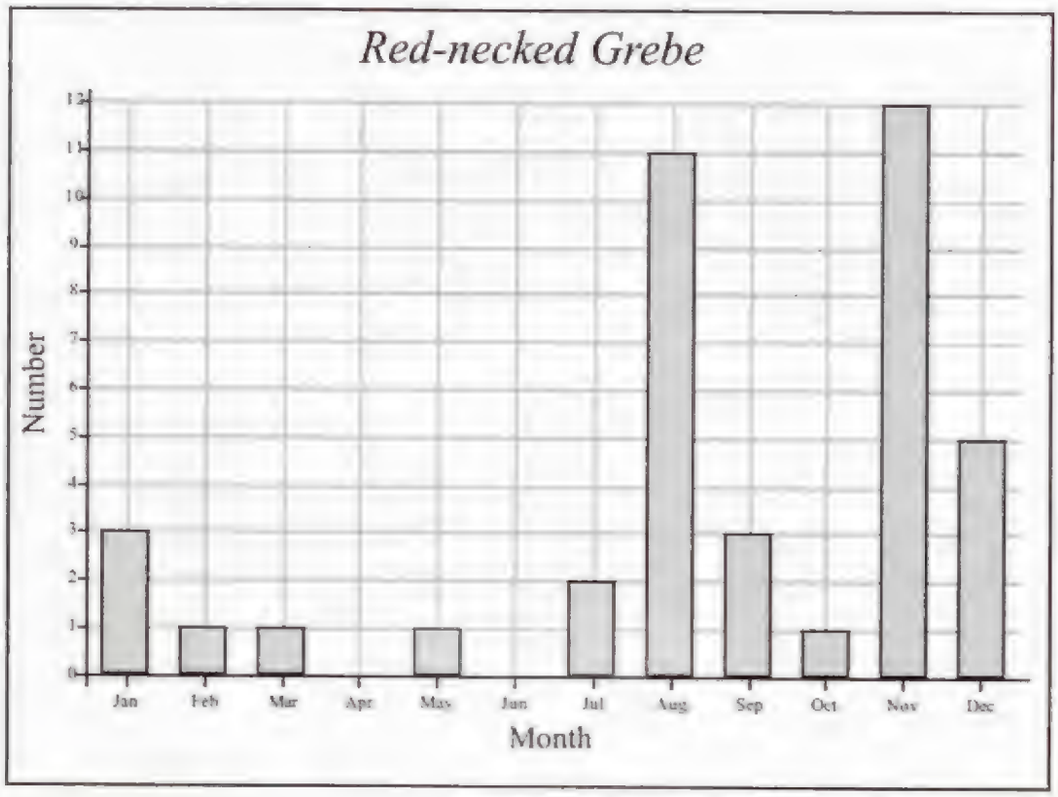
Rare vagrant; 3 previous records

One was found on the River Ure at High Batts NR on 6th April, remaining until 21st (JRM). This Nearctic grebe has now found its way to Yorkshire on four occasions, and three of these have been in the Harrogate district.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor

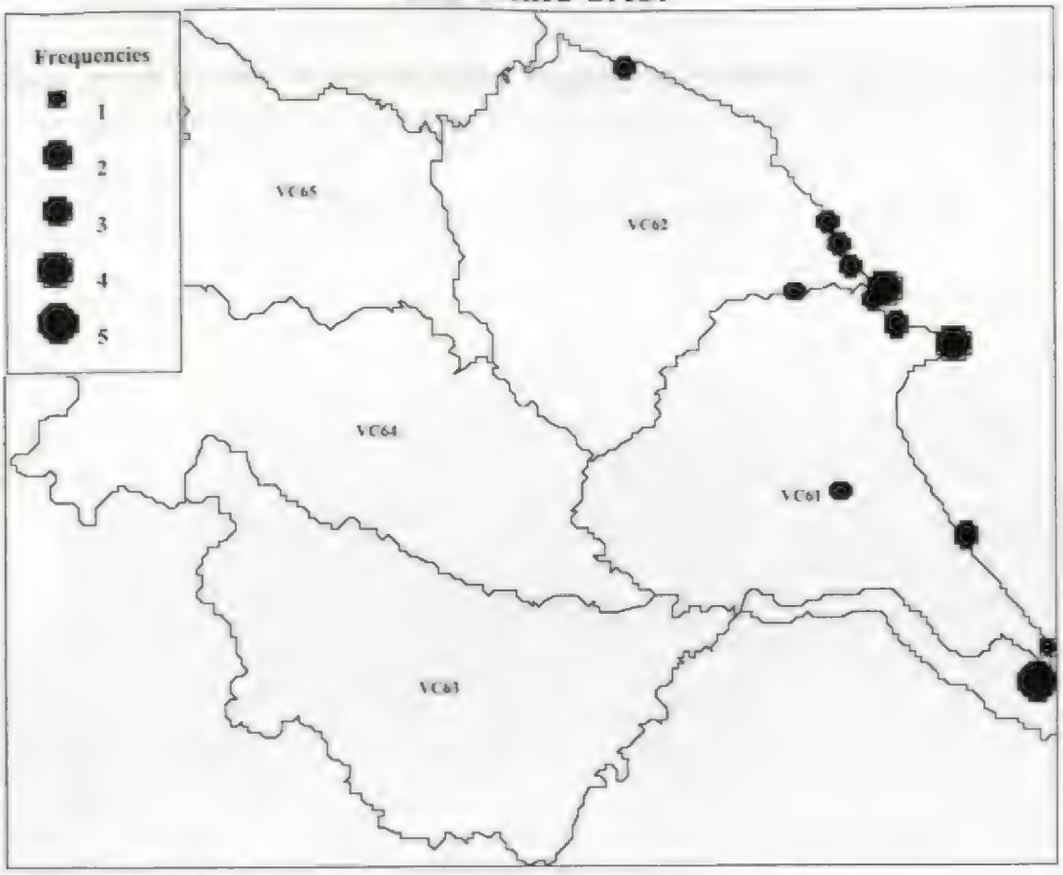
A single bird remaining in Filey Bay from 1999 lingered until 15th February. Other early winter records comprised one in Scarborough Bay on 9th January, one on the boating lake at Wykeham from 25th January until 13th March, one at Saltburn on 29th February and one off Primrose Valley on 6th March. Summer-plumaged birds were seen at Cromer Point on 10th May and in Filey Bay on 12th July. A single was off Flamborough Head on 22nd July.



The first juvenile to be seen was in Filey Bay on 12th August, remaining throughout until 24th October, and being joined by a second bird from 6th September until 13th September. During August however, Flamborough Head sustained a near monopoly, with 11 sightings recorded on 9 dates, though the total number of different individuals in likely to have been small. September records involved a juvenile at PHENR from 3rd to 11th, followed by a single flying north past Spurn on 13th. The only one recorded in October, other than the long-staying bird in Filey Bay, was a single in Cayton Bay on 29th. Single birds were seen offshore at Flamborough Head on three dates in November, with others recorded at Reighton on 3rd and 11th. As the autumn drew to a close, several birds lingered longer than previously, such as indviduals at East Newton from 7th to 11th November, BPNR from 10th to 30th November, and East Park, Hull, from 13th November to 4th December. Filey Bay hosted 2 birds on 18th November with one remaining until 5th December. Singles flew south at Spurn on 26th November, and again on 1st and 3rd December, and on the latter date singles were recorded at both

Scarborough and Flamborough Head. The last of the year was a single flying south offshore at Spurn on 22nd December.

Red-necked Grebe



SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn

During January a total of 9 birds were recorded, including one from the previous year, which remained in Filey Bay until 6th February. One on the sea off Spurn on 1st January is likely to have been the same bird seen subsequently offshore on both 15th and 30th and potentially the same as the one on BPNR from 23rd January, which remained until 18th March. The only other coastal record was a single seen offshore at Flamborough Head on 6th January. Inland January records consisted of one at Hatfield Prison Lakes from 6th to 13th, one at Ardsley Res on 15th January and one present at Wintersett Res Top Lake from 15th January to 4th February. Two passing offshore at Flamborough Head on 31st March were the only spring records.

The first bird recorded in autumn was at Reighton on 3rd November, followed by another at Scaling Dam Res on 19th, this bird remaining until the end of the year. Only 2 others were seen in November: one at Skinningrove on 23rd and one at Primrose Valley on 30th, this latter also remaining until the year-end. In December, 2 were seen at Spurn on 22nd, one inland at Blackmoorfoot Res from 25th to the year-end, a notable 4 in Filey Bay on 29th with 2 of them still present next day and one remaining until 31st.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare recent breeding species, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The only record in the first 2 months was a single on Hornsea Mere from 30th January until 20th February. As usual, springtime brought a noticeable influx, beginning with singles at Old Moor from 23rd to 24th March and at Pugney's CP from 2nd to 6th April. Summer-plumaged birds began to arrive from mid-April: one at Southfield Res on 11th; one at Otley GP from 14th to 15th; one at Skipsea on 17th April; with others in April at TLNR on 19th, (2 also there from 26th remaining to 1st May), at Wintersett Res from 23rd to 24th, and 2 on Thorne Moors on 30th, at least one of which was seen subsequently on 22nd May and again on 18th June. One that arrived at Old Moor on 25th also began a long period of residence, this time until 17th June. Passage continued in May. Aughton Ings hosted 4 birds on 1st May, with singles being seen at BPNR from 6th to 8th and Hornsea Mere on 14th, whilst a second bird joined the one at Old Moor on 8th. Skelton Lake held 2 birds on 8th May then one on 10th, 2 on 11th and one on 13th. Anglers CP played host to 3 birds on 9th May with several sites recording 2 birds together over the next few weeks these being: Anglers CP again on 24th May, Swillington Ings on 5th June, Potteric Carr on 6th June, TLNR on 21st June and PHENR on 27th June.

At Fairburn Ings a summer-plumaged bird arrived on Village Bay on 19th April, with a total of 6 on the reserve by 2nd May. Breeding looked a distinct possibility with pairs present at both ends of the reserve until the major flood on Sunday 4th June that wiped out hundreds of nests and chicks of many species. All was not lost with 2 pairs eventually successful. On 22nd July the first two young were brought out on show, joined by a second brood of two the next day. Subsequently one bird from each brood fledged successfully, and birds remained on the reserve until 16th September, delighting many hundreds of admirers. This breeding success was the first at Fairburn for 75 years.

The first autumn bird was seen when a single arrived at TLNR on 11th August, remaining into September, with 2 there on 23rd August. Nearby one was reported on Hornsea Mere on 24th August, increasing to 2 birds on 22nd September and to 3 on 23rd September, with at least one remaining until 24th October. All other records for the rest of the year refer to single birds: at North Cave Wetlands from 31st August until 1st October; at Wintersett Res on 17th September; at Nosterfield NR on 1st October; and at Spurn flying south offshore on 20th October. Another lone bird, first seen at Catcliffe Flash on 16th November, remained into December, and was then seen at Worsborough Res on 10th and finally at Wintersett Res from 11th until the end of the year.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

Scarce late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic

A somewhat poor year for this species began when one flew north off Flamborough Head on 31st August (PAL: KB *et al*). On 2nd September there were 2 sightings, possibly relating to the same individual, firstly off Flamborough Head

(BR *et al*), then later flying north off Cowbar near Staithes (MRKA: WIB: MC), closely followed closely by another individual off Flamborough Head next day (DJB). The only other sighting of the year was of one that flew slowly north off Long Nab, Burniston on 15th September (NWA).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*
Very scarce coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic
The 3rd September was a good day for the species, beginning when early morning observers watched one flying north off Long Nab, Burniston at 06.50 (JH: SW). Following several hurried phone calls, this same individual was seen later the same day off Ness Point, Whitby (JAB: AH: RSS: AZ). In addition, 2 others were seen; one off Mappleton (WFC) and one flying north off Flamborough Head (AMA: PAL: BR: RS), although it is feasible that all these four reports could have referred to the same individual. Singles were subsequently seen off Flamborough Head on both 12th and 16th September (PAL).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn
Not unexpectedly, records of this species were most numerous at Flamborough Head, with the first of the year being on 15th July, and a further 6 noted before the month end. During August, 47 were recorded between 12th and 21st, with the highest counts being 4 on 12th, 7 on 19th, 14 on 20th and 8 on 21st. A total of 11 were seen during September, and the final record from Flamborough Head was of 2 on 7th October (PAL *et al*). Records from other coastal sites involved one flying north off Long Nab, Burniston on 7th August (MF), 2 off Filey Brigg on 19th August (JA: NA: CSR: GVW) with another the next day (JMT). Other singles seen in August were at Staithes on 22nd, Filey Brigg on 28th (JMT), and Hornsea on 30th (BR *et al*). During September a further 3 individuals were recorded, one at Cowbar on 2nd (RCT), one at Grimston on 3rd (TI), and one at Long Nab, Burniston on 12th (NWA).

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Scarce coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland
The first records of the year came in July: single birds flying north at Flamborough Head on 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th and 17th, with one also off Spurn on 15th. The next sighting came from Long Nab, Burniston on 10th August, but then no more until one was seen, again from Flamborough Head, on 23rd September, which flew south, with another 2 doing likewise there the following day. Records later in the year included one seen flying north off Spurn on 28th October and another off Flamborough Head on 30th.

Overnight tape luring at Filey between 19th July and 11th August resulted in a total of 25 being trapped and ringed, with the most successful night being 11th August when 9 birds were caught. Tape luring at Flamborough Head during the same period resulted in 4 birds being caught.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Very scarce coastal migrant, usually during late autumn; rare inland

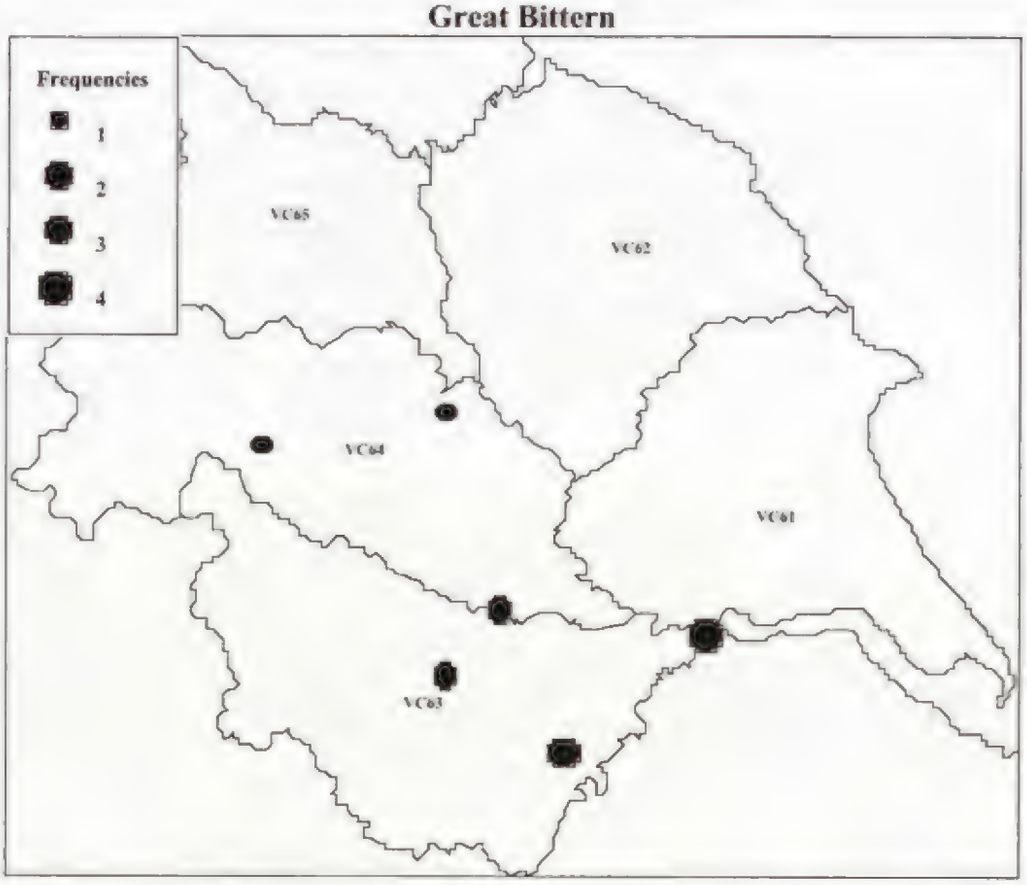
All records involved singles seen offshore at Spurn in September; birds flying north on 15th, 16th and 18th and south on 20th.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

It was another good year for records in Yorkshire. The wintering bird from 1999 was still present at Potteric Carr on 1st January and was seen with certainty there until 1st March. At nearby Thorpe Marsh, one remained, also from January, until 9th March. Fairburn Ings held one bird from at least 12th to 16th January, with another January bird being seen at Blacktoft Sands from 23rd onwards. The same, or possibly another, was seen at Blacktoft Sands on 7th February and again on 2nd April, with "booming" heard there on 7th April. The final spring sightings involved one flushed at Staveley NR on 18th April, being seen again there on 21st April.

Great Bittern



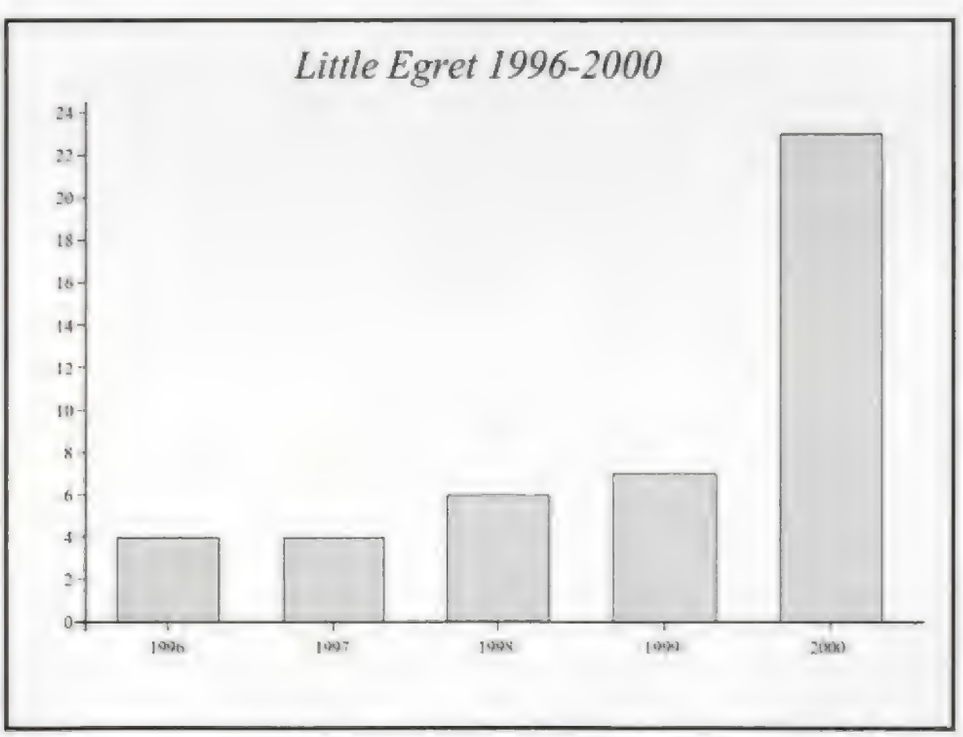
Autumn sightings began with an early (British?) bird at Potteric Carr on 24th August, followed by one at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd September. Wintering and long-staying individuals were then located at Potteric Carr from 5th November and at Wintersett Res from 3rd December, both staying until the year-end. A second bird was long suspected as being present at Wintersett Res, and this was only proven when 2 were finally seen together on 30th December. A bird seen at Kelleythorpe, near Driffield on 16th December was not seen subsequently.

Most birds appear in late autumn and disappear in early spring and are thought to be wintering birds of continental origin rather than the offspring of British breeding stock.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Rare vagrant from southern Europe; 34 previous records
There was only a single record of this species this year; a first-summer bird present at Southfield Res from 9th to 13th May (CF: RP: AM *et al*).

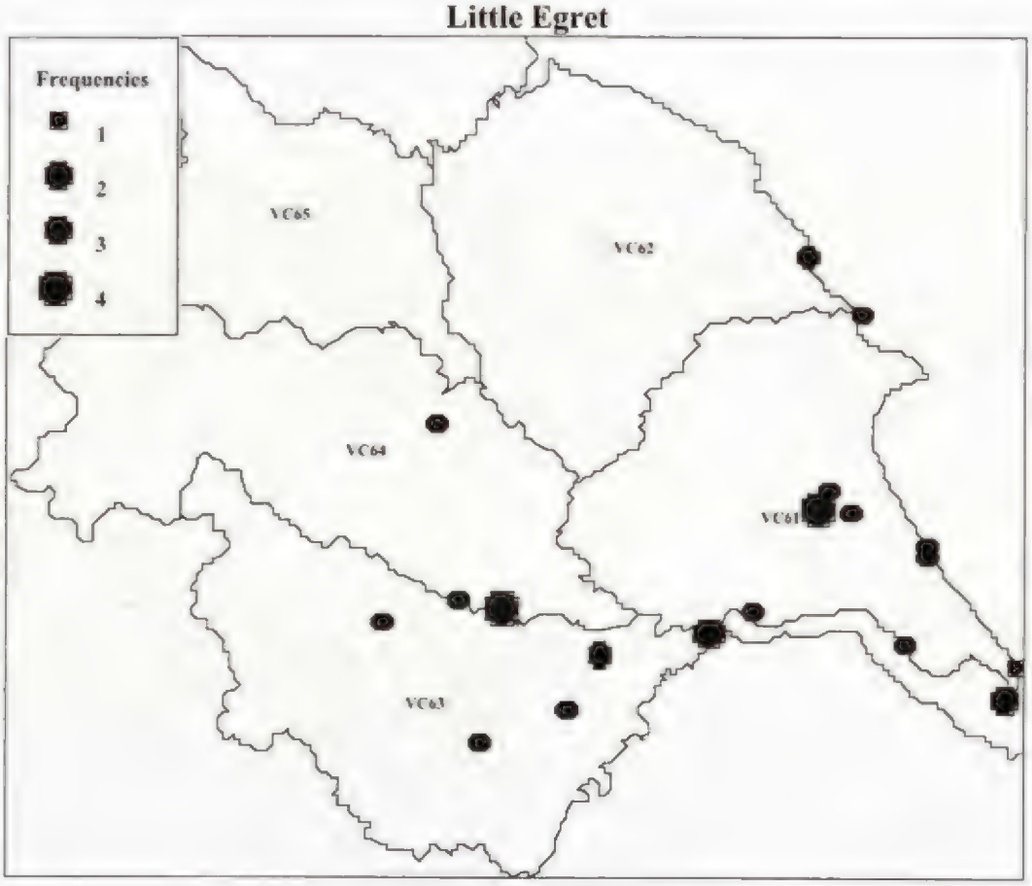
LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*
Scarce vagrant in increasing numbers; 51 previous records
A significant increase in reports this year with over 20 records, though the actual number of different individuals involved is extremely difficult to estimate, with perhaps as few as 10 wandering birds accounting for all the reports. This increase mirrors the species' expansion northwards as noted in other counties, and is probably the result of recent breeding successes in southern England.

Probably the most frequently seen bird was an individual that was first found at Brough Haven on 4th January (RL: GT: RW *et al*), remaining there until 17th January. It then reappeared between 1st and 8th May, again on 23rd June, again from 16th to 24th September before a final presence on both 2nd and 4th October. No others were seen during the winter months until 16th April when one was at Leven Waterworks for three days (EJH: RL). At Blacktoft Sands one flew up the River Ouse on 24th April, and 2 were on the reserve on 1st May (SDW). On 20th May, one flew north over PHENR (DGH), with another or the same seen flying north there on 22nd May (DGH), on which date one landed on the River Humber at Spurn and spent 4 hours feeding amongst the *spartina* before flying off south (PC: SMy).



During June one frequented Cherry Cob Sands daily from 1st to 3rd (AFJ). A second individual on 3rd, a breeding-plumaged adult, was first seen at Fairburn Ings, where it roosted on islands for most of the day, before leaving to the east at 16.45. Later it was relocated at Swillington Ings (PRM) before finally arriving at Almholme Flash (JW) where it remained until the next day. At PHENR, a single was found on 16th June remaining until 28th (DGH). On 18th one was again at Fairburn Ings with a second joining it next day and both remaining until 22nd. The first 3 sightings in July seem likely to have involved the same roaming bird: seen firstly at Spurn on 12th when it dropped onto the Humber (DPB), then on 14th at Gill's Mere, Tunstall (AFJ) and finally on BPNR on 18th (MJP: JGr). It is also possible that this bird then proceeded up the Humber to Blacktoft Sands where it was seen on 21st July, remaining until 28th. In August, one appeared at Filey CP on 5th (JH: PMS: DJW), to be seen later the same day at Scalby Lodge Pond (RP), and on 7th at Coatham Marsh. One at Beal Carrs on 9th August flew off east at 19.30 (DB), before a group of 4 appeared at Farnham GP on 12th (BFD *et al*). One which found PHENR much to its liking stayed from 16th to 28th August (DGH) and was probably the one seen at TLNR on 18th. Another single seen on 18th was at Aldwark Bridge on the River Ouse (IW). A sighting at Fairburn Ings, "Deep Pool" of a single bird on the morning of 26th August, later flying off east at 09.20, was very likely the one seen later that day at Old Moor Wetlands where it remained until the 27th. (RC: JHG). The concluding record of the year was of one flying south down the Humber at Spurn on 20th September (LJD: HV: TC).

Little Egret



GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba*

Rare late spring and summer vagrant from the Netherlands and south-east Europe; 14 previous records

A good year for sightings of this species, but probably only one or two birds involved. The first appearance was a breeding-plumaged adult on flooded cliff top fields at Tunstall on the afternoon of 19th May (TI: GED *et al*). On 11th June, one was seen flying over Swillington Ings, gaining height as it progressed in an easterly direction (PRM). This was almost certainly the bird seen later the same day at Brough Airfield Marsh (EJH: RL). The next day one was present on Coatham Marsh, Redcar (MAB: MNS *et al*), later seen to fly out to sea over Redcar GC during the afternoon.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Rare vagrant, almost annual in recent years; 55 previous records (52 birds)

This visitor from southern Europe also breeds just across the North Sea in the Netherlands, and spring occurrences of over-shooting birds are now almost annual. One was seen flying over Fairburn Ings at 15.00 hrs on 28th April (SVV: JG: JHi). It left to the west shortly afterwards, but must have returned since one was seen flying west over the Visitor Centre at 07.20 hrs on 30th April. Extensive searching in-between, and after these sightings, proved fruitless.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce vagrant, escapes from Harewood confuse status

White Stork has, over recent years, become a rather questionable species with regard to the reliability of sightings of wild birds. This year was certainly no exception, with all of the following records potentially attributable to the two free-flying birds at the Harewood House collection. It remains the prerogative of all birdwatchers to judge independently whether an individual bird is genuine of course, the following serving merely as a record of dates and sightings for the year.

On 19th March, 2 birds were present at Farnham GP and also at nearby Ossett, Bretton, Farnham and Pannel, before a single was seen around there on 23rd April. During May, a single was seen at Temple Newsam on 2nd, then 2 were at Fairburn Ings on 4th (PRM: ECS: HRS) and another lone bird at Long Marston on 7th. Singles were at Harrogate on 10th June and at Strensall on 16th June. On 12th July one was seen to fly east to Brough Haven, soon returning back west (RL: GD: CH). The next sighting was not until the end of August when a single bird was present at Staveley NR on 31st. The last record of the year involved 2 at Old Moor on 4th October that later flew to the north.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

Scarce migrant and summer visitor

This species breeds in the Netherlands and Eastern Europe, although in recent years some birds have regularly summered in the country and a recent breeding attempt has been reported. Passage through Yorkshire usually starts in April, as in

this year when a wandering individual was first seen at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, then at Southfield Res on 12th, Beal Carrs from 13th to 16th and then back at Blacktoft Sands on 15th and 25th. Next were 2 that circled over Filey Dams on 4th May, with subsequent sightings this month from Skelton Lake on 21st and BPNR on 22nd. June sightings came from Wheldrake Ings on 7th, Brough Airfield Marsh on 26th and then one at Filey Dams on 1st July. A single at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd July was joined by two more from 4th to 12th. One was then at Fairburn Ings on both 23rd and 25th with 2 on 26th. The last in July frequented Wheldrake Ings on 29th and then again on 4th August, after which September birds were at Farnham GP on 1st, and at Edderthorpe Flash on 10th. The last of the year was in October at Brough Airfield Marsh on 5th. It is possible that no more than three birds were involved.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

Scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

Two came in off the sea at Spurn Point on 26th October, 2 were at Scalby on 6th November and 3 were at Blacktoft Sands on 26th December. None of these sightings were ascribed to race.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis*
Three were with Greylag Geese at Bubwith Ings from 4th to 26th January, after which they remained at North Duffield Carrs until 13th February, with 7 additional birds reported at Ellerton on 16th January.

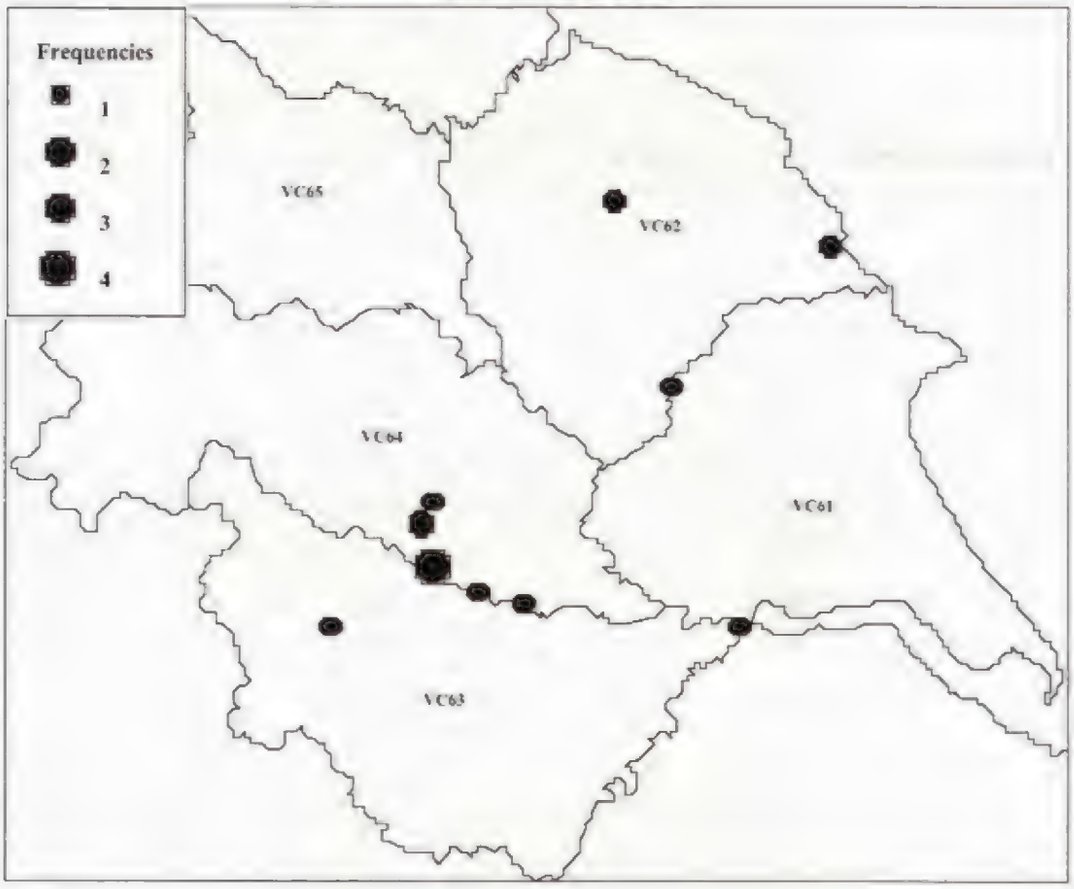
Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus*
One was at Nosterfield NR on 12th March.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has very occasionally bred
It is possible that the same 3 birds were responsible for the following sightings: 2 very secretive birds were present at Fairburn Ings in the field between Spoonbill Flash and New Flash throughout the day of 25th April, though they did venture as far as Hickson's Flash. Next was one at Ripon Racecourse Lake from 2nd to 4th May, though the 2 remained to be seen at Fairburn Ings "in late April and May" and also visiting Nosterfield GP and Bolton On Swale GP. One was at Nosterfield GP on both 9th and 22nd October. Two were at Denaby Ings from 29th to 30th October with one at Staveley NR on 4th and 10th November.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*
Feral breeder/local escape/visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country
A small feral population of this exotic duck is now becoming established at Harewood Park near Leeds. Based on introduced stock, up to 10 birds were present between 12th February and 17th December and at least 2 pairs bred, though the number of young raised is unknown.

Elsewhere the male at Throxenby Mere from 1999 remained until 10th February, whilst a male, which resided on the canal at Silsden during January and February probably came from a nearby collection. Subsequent drakes were at: Golden Acre Park, Leeds on 16th January (and again on 11th February, 9th April, and 12th December); on the River Derwent at Kirkham Priory on 30th January; at Thorpe Underwood Lakes near Harrogate on 17th February and again there from 15th to 20th April. In March, a bird was on the river Wharfe at Burley and males were present on 2 dates at Elland GP and Brighouse with one at Eccup Reservoir on 20th and again on 14th April. Perhaps the most unexpected record of the year was one at Filey on 21st March. Two pairs remained near Barden Bridge from 1st April to 13th May with a bird on Lower Barden Res on 9th. A male was at Fairburn Ings from 8th to 11th June, whilst one resided at Shibden Lake, Halifax during both July and August. A female was at New Swillington Ings on 7th October, whilst individual males which frequented Elland GP, Myrtholmroyd and High Royd SF on 8 dates between 31st October and 27th December, might have referred to the same bird. Two males were at Hackness Lake on 5th December, one was at Bridlington on 17th and finally 3 were on the River Wharfe at Strid Wood near Bolton Abbey on 28th.

Mandarin Duck



BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

Rare vagrant; 17 previous records

A fine drake was at Saltmarshe Delph on 1st May (BHG *et al*). There have been 17 previous records of this North American duck in the county, probably involving 14 individuals. *(A record from 1989 of a female at Kilnsea on 29th October is still pended by* ***BBRC****, can anyone supply more details?).*

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian Seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections and can be seen on park lakes and village ponds, and these probably account for most, if not all reports.

A male appeared intermittently at Anglers CP from 17th January to 10th May; a female was at Farnley Res on 23rd February; a male was at Skelton Lake on 7th and again between 9th and 12th March, this bird also appearing at Leventhorpe Ash Ponds on the latter date. In March a female was at Fairburn Ings on 7th, 2 males were at Blackburn Welfare Pond on 15th and a female was at Southfield Res on 17th, the latter intermittently until 6th April. Males were then at Rodley NR on 26th March and at Pugney's CP on 1st April, which remained to be seen periodically until May. Single males remained at Brough Airfield Marsh from

5th to 30th April, at Castle Howard on 8th April, at Sprotborough Flash from 5th to 9th May, at Brough Airfield Marsh again on 26th May and at Bishopthorpe on 10th June. Females were reported from Leventhorpe Hall Pond on 23rd June, Blacktoft Sands on 30th July, Swillington Ings on 20th September and Fairburn Ings on 23rd. A female was discovered along Slaynes Lane near Bawtry on 2nd December, with 2 birds at TLNR on 3rd and a male at Southfield Res on 9th.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

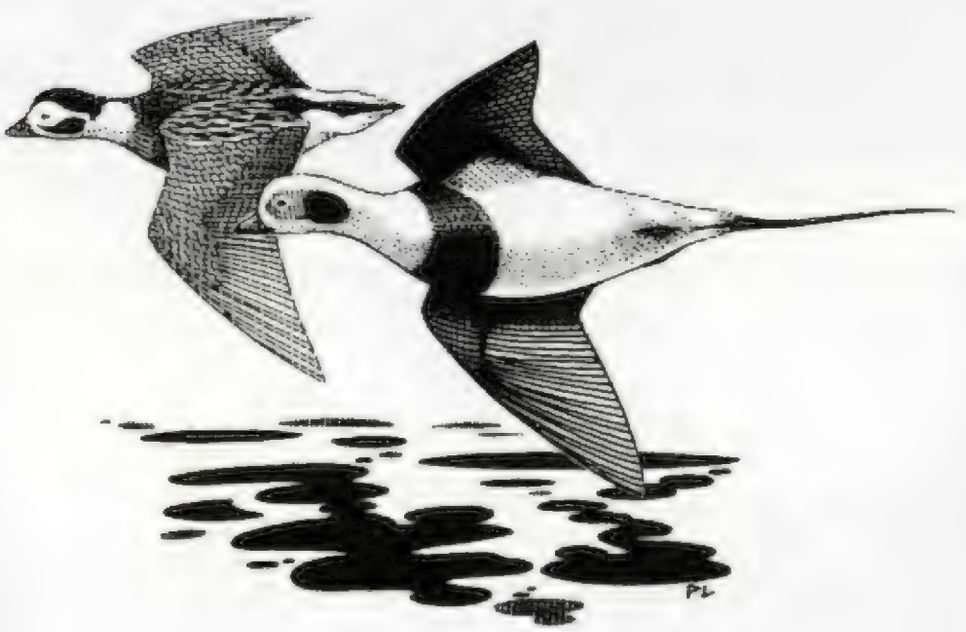
Scarce vagrant

This North American duck now occurs annually, with one or two drakes usually residing in the Aire valley in recent years. An adult drake was seen regularly at Fairburn Ings between 25th February and 10th July with probably the same bird making occasional appearances at Allerton Bywater and Lowther Lake in February and March. The drake at Lambwath floods near Aldbrough on 14th and 15th June (AFJ: TI *et al*) was most unexpected, but it may have been the West Yorkshire bird on an excursion since one was back at Swillington Ings on 24th to 26th June (PRM). An undoubted new bird was a first-winter drake at Harthill Res from 3rd to 5th December (HA).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

This Holarctic species breeds in Iceland and north Norway, and winters regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers. This was a relatively lean year for the species in the county. Early year reports comprised 2 at Flamborough Head on 1st January and 2 which remained at Redcar throughout January and February. One stayed in Filey Bay from 5th to 26th May.



In autumn, one was at Cromer Point on 23rd September with 2 at Spurn Point on 23rd October and singles in Filey Bay on 27th and south at Spurn Point on 31st. Five flew south at Filey Brigg and 2 were at Spurn Point on 7th November with 3 at Spurn next day. Singles were at Reighton on 9th, Flamborough Head on 11th, Filey Brigg on 17th, Spurn Point on 22nd, BPNR on 23rd and at Spurn Point again on 26th. Unusually 4 were at Stone Creek on the River Humber on 16th December, when one was also at Flamborough Head. Also in December 2 were at Filey Brigg on 21st and a final one at Flamborough Head on 23rd.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

Quite a few reports during January including 3 throughout in Filey Bay, whilst 4 remained at Whitby from 8th January to 25th March. Singles frequented Redcar on 13th and Flamborough Head on 15th when there were also 2 at Spurn Point. Three flew north at Long Nab, Burniston on 23rd and 3 (possibly the same birds) were at Flamborough Head on that date, whilst the last 2 of January flew south at Spurn Point on 31st. Next were 13 noted at Flamborough Head on 12th March with 2 there on 21st. In April one was in Filey Bay on 1st whilst the only inland records were 2 on the Humber at Melton on 16th and a female at Scalby Lodge Pond on 18th. One remained in Filey Bay from 9th to 20th May with one south at Spurn Point on 28th.

The first returning bird was a drake at Ness Point, Whitby on 9th July. Three males were in Filey Bay from 11th to 22nd, with 7 birds at Flamborough Head on 11th, 2 at Ness Point on 12th, one at Long Nab, Burniston on 24th and one back at Ness Point, Whitby on 26th. August produced singles on 19th both in Filey Bay and at Spurn Point, with one at Long Nab, Burniston on 31st. In September one was at Hawsker on 1st with 2 the following day; one was at Spurn Point on 3rd; 5 were at Long Nab, Burniston on 12th with 4 on 15th, and 2 were at Spurn Point on 16th. Seen quite frequently at Spurn Point from 15th October to 9th November with a high count of 7 on 18th, and a pair was at Cayton Bay on 29th October. In November, 4 were at Hornsea and one was at Aldbrough on 7th; 5 were at Reighton on 9th with 2 on 12th; 9 were in Filey Bay on 10th with 10 on 16th; 9 flew south at Spurn Point on 22nd when 2 were also at Whitby; 7 were in Filey Bay on 23rd with one remaining to 31st December and 3 were at Whitby on 26th when one was at nearby Sandsend. December records began promptly on the 1st when one was at Saltburn, followed by 6 at Reighton on 3rd, one at Sandsend on both 10th and 11th, 2 at Reighton on 17th, 2 were at St Andrew's Quay, Hull on 20th and one finally was at Spurn Point on 25th.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

Although quite a common breeding bird in continental Europe, only small numbers breed in Britain, and once again, only one pair was reported attempting to breed in the county; an infertile pair in the Wykeham Forest where they remained from

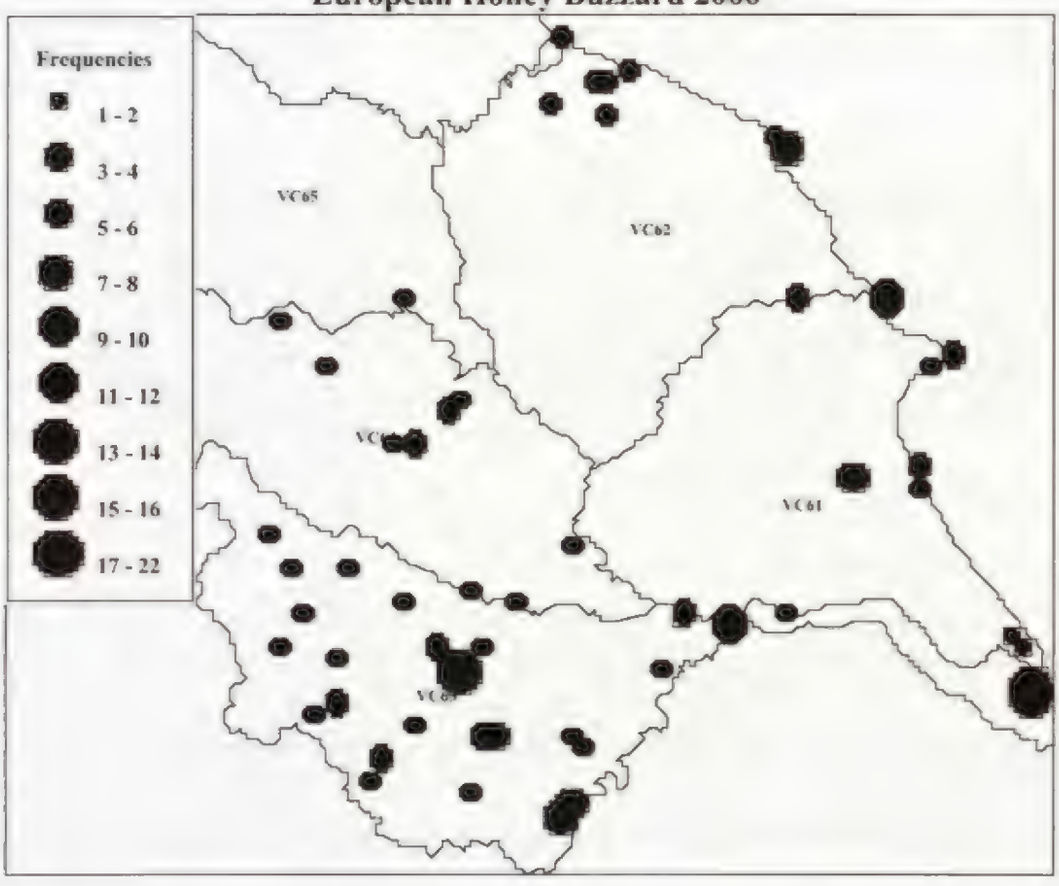
22nd May to 1st August. European Honey Buzzards are late migrants, usually arriving in late May, and the first this year was at Blacktoft Sands on 14th. Spring migrants were seen at Cayton/Lebberston and Filey CP on 6th June and flying south at Spurn Point on 11th. One flew over Brough Airfield Marsh on 16th July.

Return passage in autumn commenced with one south at Spurn Point on the 15th September. This proved to be the forerunner of a remarkable movement originating in eastern Britain, which began on 20th. An easterly airstream accompanied by rain brought an unprecedented influx of this species, likely to have involved birds that departed the continent on 19th. Between 19th September and 9th October, 138 acceptable records were received for this species, with a number of other possible sightings. One roosted at Kew Villa, Kilnsea on the evening of 19th and 6 "buzzards", presumably this species, were seen by farmers departing coastal woods along the Holderness coast at Atwick and Catfoss early on 20th, having roosted overnight. Most confirmed sightings on the first day came from the coast: 15 birds passed south at Spurn Point early in the day, with 2 at Filey CP and 2 in off the sea at Ness Point, Whitby. Two were recorded in Cleveland at Dunsdale and Nunthorpe. Just inland from Spurn, singles were seen over Sammy's Point, Skeffling, Welwick and Bilton. Further inland, 2 passed over Blacktoft Sands and singles were at the Ewden Valley and Scar House Res. The weather the following day was wet and not conducive to movement, but on the coast 3 were at

Atwick, with singles at Filey CP and Spurn Point. Inland, 3 were seen in South Yorkshire involving singles over Bessacarr (Doncaster), with 2 at nearby Wilsic.

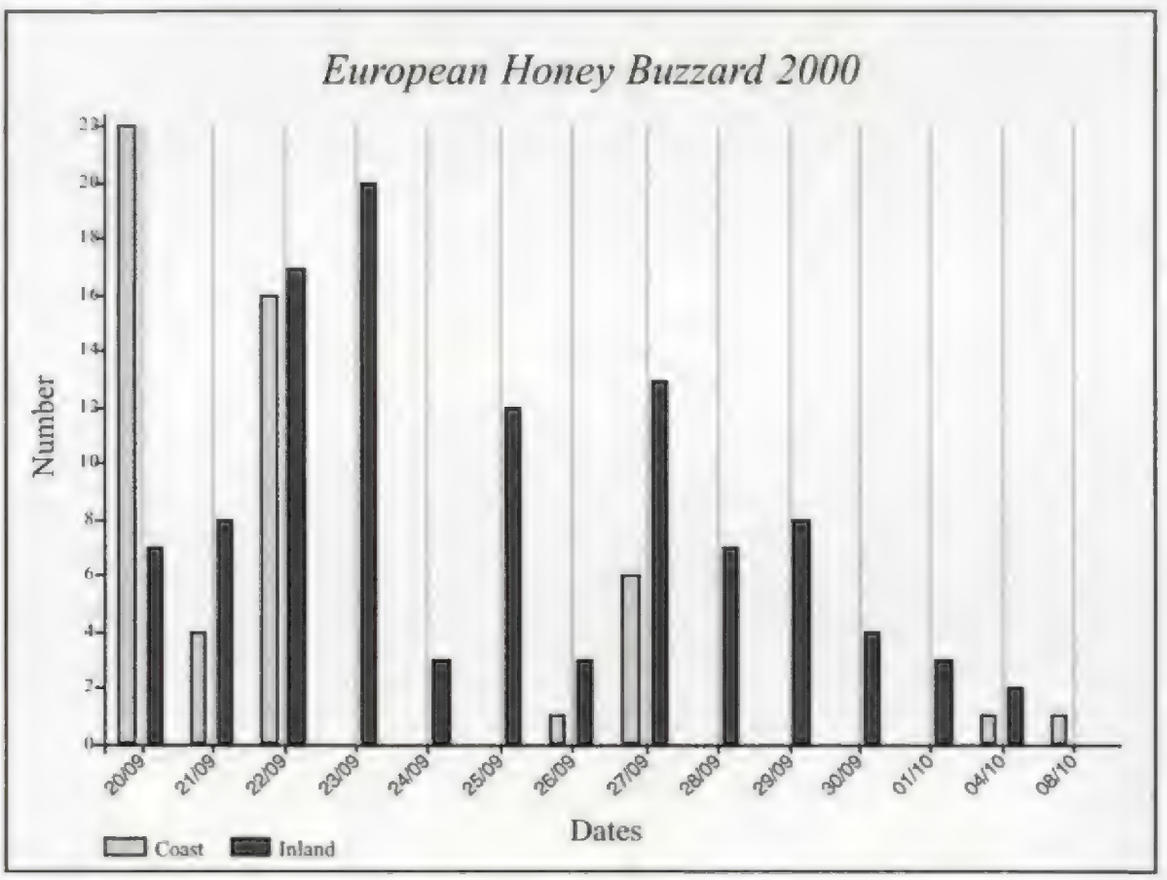
An improvement in the weather encouraged a widespread movement to take place on 22nd, although it seems possible that new arrivals were taking place on the coast. Four were seen at Ness Point near Whitby where parties of 2 were seen at 12.45 and again at 14.20; 6 were noted between 15.00 and 16.30 over Filey CP, some of which appeared to come in off the sea over Carr Naze; 3 flew south at Spurn Point, and one flew over Sammy's Point, Easington. Further inland, 5 graced TLNR, with singles over Blacktoft Sands, Hutton Conyers, Staveley NR, and Wilsic. Two were recorded at Old Moor Wetlands with 3 seen over Holmfirth before 11 a.m. Clearly some duplication of records may have occurred, and again the next day, when most passage was through inland sites with only the occasional coastal sighting. Singles on 23rd were at Upleatham, Hawsker and Sleddale in VC 62, and Holmbridge, Fairburn Ings, Old Moor, Wilsic and Kings Wood (Roche Abbey) further south, with an impressive 4 at Midhope. On 24th, despite wet and foggy weather, singles were noted at Hawsker, Sewerby, Blacktoft Sands and Thorne Moors. On 25th conditions for soaring were much improved, with warm, sunny weather. Three were at Wykeham Lakes and one at Bempton, while further inland at least 3 (and probably 5) flew south over High Green, Sheffield, 2 were at Broomhill Flash and singles flew over Farnham GP and Worsborough. Next day, 2 were reported at Ilkley Moor on 26th, with one at Silkstone and another at South Gare.

European Honey Buzzard 2000



On 27th 2 were at Upleatham and one at Cayton, both sites near to the coast, but most movement was still taking place inland, with singles at Blackburn Meadows, Broomhill Flash and Wilsic, plus 4 reported at Blacktoft Sands and 7 over Anglers' CP, though again some duplication of records no doubt occurred. Singles continued to drift through on 28th; at Morley, Gouthwaite Res, Wintersett Res and Upleatham, with 4 through Pugney's CP. On the 29th, singles were at Upleatham, Gouthwaite Res, Huddersfield, Ringstone Edge, New Swillington Ings, Beverley, and Old Moor Wetlands. On the 30th, 2 passed over Farnham GP and a single over Clover Hill, Halifax with singles over West Tanfield, Denholm Clough, and Blacktoft Sands on 1st October. The next occurred at both Potteric Carr and Spurn Point on 4th, with the last, a noticeably late single at Kex Gill Quarry on 9th.

Out of 138 acceptable records during this influx, only 7 of the birds described were identified as adults and only a couple of pale juveniles or pale-headed birds were noted. The rest were dark-plumaged birds, and most were presumably juveniles, with 35 descriptions allowing for certain identification of dark-phase juveniles.



MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce migrant: has bred

A number of reports were received in late spring of this graceful raptor. In May a male was at Easington on 7th (TC: JGr), with ringtails at Midhope Moor on 14th (JMT *et al*), Spurn Point and Kilnsea on 16th (JGr: DRM *et al*), Sammy's Point on 19th and Long Bank Easington on 20th (LJD *et al*), Swillington Ings (PRM: MB)

Isabelline Shrike *Flamborough Head*, November J. Harriman

Great Grey Shrike *Southfield Res*, May I. Leach

Bluethroat *Filey*, May I. Leach

Sabine's Gull *Saltburn*, November J. Harriman

Desert Warbler *Sammy's Point*, May I. Leach

Desert Warbler *Sammy's Point*, May J. Harriman

Hume's Leaf Warbler — *Flamborough Head*, November — J. Butterworth

Arctic Warbler — *Spurn Point*, October — M. Ashforth

Rosy Starling *Ripon*, April J. Harriman

Pacific Golden Plover *Brough Haven*, July I. Leach

Little Bunting *Shepley,* February M. Ashforth

Black-headed Bunting *Flamborough Head,* July J. Harriman

Tawny Pipit *Spurn Point*, May I. Leach

Black-faced Bunting *Spurn Point*, May I. Leach

Humes Leaf Warbler (Phylloscopus humei)
Flamborough Head 1st Nov 2000
Both species shouted crown stripe similar to Pallas's but much duller
upperparts/mantle dull grey/green-olive tone
tertials edged off white similar to feather edges of primary tips, all lacking contrast of yellow browed below
Bill mostly dark lead grey with paler mark near base. ear coverts darkish, supercilium distinctly pointed at end.
dusky underparts washed grey/off white
Two wing bars. Greater coverts more extensive, median covert bar shorter, both yellow/off white. Generally a duller bird less contrasting tones than yellow browed
dark legs blackish-dusk merging with slightly lighter colour of feet. distinctly brown.
Call: a slightly coarse 'hwit'
Supercilium bright and blunt ended.
Upperparts dark giving wing bars brighter tone with high contrast. Mantle olive green.
dark bill more extensive pale area on lower mandible. ear coverts very dark highlighting super.
white/very pale underparts contrasted with bright upperparts compared to Humes warble
legs pale yellow/grey
Crown stripe similar in both species
tertials edged white/off white
Yellow Browed Warbler (Phylloscopus inornatus)

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Flamborough Head*, November R. Baines

and Filey Dams (CCT), on 27th. A first-summer male at Redmires Res on 6th June moved to Midhope Moors where it remained until 26th July and was observed by many people. A male flew in off the sea at Saltburn on 8th June (JBD) and a female was at Filey CP on 10th (JMT *et al*). At Blacktoft Sands, a female was located on 9th June and a male on 9th July.

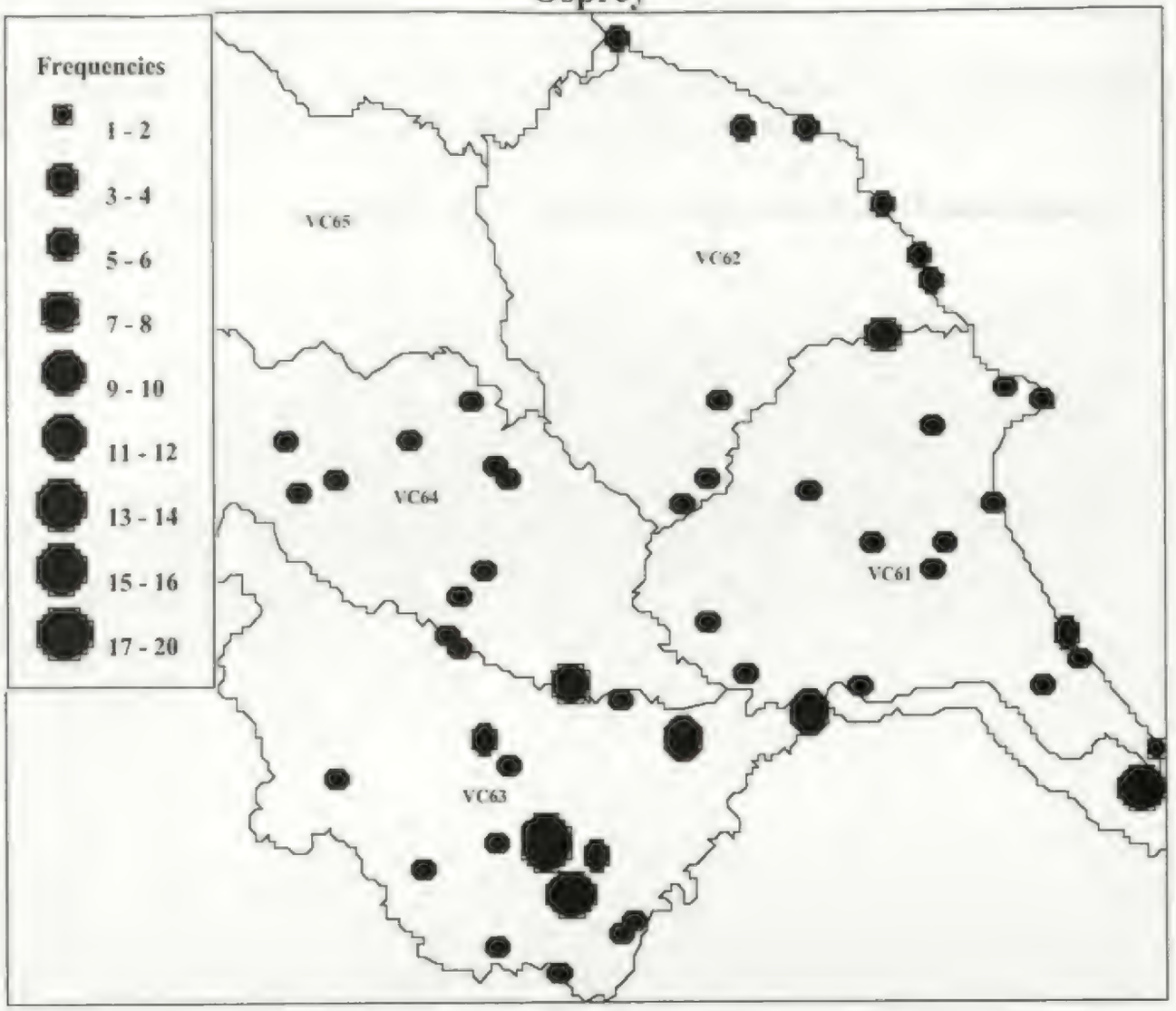
ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*
Scarce migrant and winter visitor
This Scandinavian species winters in small numbers in Britain, but none graced our moors this year. Passage birds were noted at Spurn Point on 23rd April (DPB: NP) with possibly the same bird at Easington on 30th (AAH *et al*).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
Regular passage migrant in increasing numbers
Reported in all months except January, February and December. This species can still raise the pulse, but its breeding success in Scotland means that records are becoming almost too numerous to list, and this is likely to be the case in future reports. There is likely to be some duplication in records, especially during the summer months when birds wandering from the English re-introduction scheme may occur. Birds can pass through quickly however: a male fitted with a radio transmitter at Boat of Garten left there on 30th August, passed over Harrogate on 1st September, Crawley in Sussex and the Normandy coast on 2nd and reached Gibraltar on 9th, finally arriving in Dakar on 20th (*per* JW).

The first was at Howden on 25th March with singles at Pugney's CP on 2nd April, Maltby and Ossett on 4th, Roche Abbey, Old Moor, South Gare and Fairburn Ings on 8th, West Tanfield on 10th, Southfield Res on 15th, Barden Fell and PHENR on 16th, Brimham Moor, Grimston and Scarborough on 18th, Thrybergh CP and Edderthorpe Flash on 23rd, Flamborough Head on 24th, Southfield Res on 25th, Wykeham Lakes on 26th, Southfield Res and Castle Howard on 27th (the former apparently carrying a radio transmitter on its back), and Worsbrough Res on 29th. Singles were at Brough Haven on 2nd May, Blacktoft Sands on 4th, Fairburn Ings on 5th, Garton on 7th, Buckton and Speeton on 13th, Pugney's CP and Watton NR on 14th, Southfield Res, Old Moor and Spurn Point on 15th, Grimston on 16th and 17th when one was also at Spurn Point, and Wykeham Lakes on 19th. Further May birds were reported from Spurn Point and Fairburn Ings on 20th with one at Welton Water on 20th and 21st. This bird had a yellow colour-ring incorporating a black 19. Singletons were at Blacktoft Sands, Wintersett Res and Fairburn Ings on 21st, Old Moor and Scarborough on 26th. Fewer were noted in June, but still a good showing: singles were at Spurn Point and Driffield on 1st, Spurn Point on 4th, Castle Howard on 6th, Scarborough on 7th and 2 were in the Barden Moor area from 9th to 26th. Singles were at Pugney's CP on 13th, Spurn Point on 17th, Thrybergh CP on 20th, Hatfield Moors (perhaps 2) on 23rd, Worsborough Res on 24th and Old Moor on 26th, with records from Wykeham Lakes on 7th July, Stock's Res on 11th, Midhope Res on

17th, Old Moor on 22nd and Grassington on 30th. In common with recent years, a long staying mid-summer bird, this time residing at Scaling Dam from 15th July to 16th August.

Osprey



One was at Meanwood, Leeds on 2nd August with others at Bolton Abbey on 8th, Denaby Ings and Spurn Point on 12th, Scaling Dam on 13th, Spurn Point on 23rd, Eccup Res and Farnham GP on 24th, Hay-a-Park GP on 28th and Stockton Grange on 29th. In September singles flew over Harrogate and Spurn Point on 1st, with another at Spurn on 2nd, at Thrybergh CP on 12th, Blacktoft Sands and Ravenscar on 14th, Blacktoft Sands on 16th, Old Moor on 17th, and Fairburn Ings on 19th. Two were at Spurn Point on the 20th with singles at Southfield Res, Blacktoft Sands and Sammy's Point. Singles on the 21st graced Thrybergh CP, Wilsic, and Wintersett Res, and on the 22nd at Old Moor, Middleton-on-the-Wolds with 2 at both Thrybergh CP and Spurn Point. Singles were at Spurn Point, Robin Hood's Bay, Thorne town, and Old Moor on 23rd with one at Beal Carrs on 24th, Southfield Res, Thrybergh CP, Wheatley (Doncaster)

and Wykeham Lakes on 25th with 2 at Thrybergh CP on 26th. One was at Fairburn Ings on 27th and 2 there next day, when one also flew over Barnside Moor. Singles were at Wykeham Lakes, Tyrham Hall and North Frodingham on 29th, and one at Worsbrough on 30th. A single at Burstwick Res remained from 4th September to 3rd October with one at Ripon Race Course from late September to 22nd October. The first day of October produced 4 at TLNR and a single at Denaby Ings. One passed through Rother Valley CP on 2nd, one was at Burstwick GP on 3rd and one at Midhope Res on 4th which remained until the 8th. Singles were at Stockton-on-Forest and Cropton Forest on 8th, both Kirkstall and Moor Hall Res on 9th, Sand Hutton on 11th, Eccup Res on 19th, Blacktoft Sands on 26th and one remained at Wykeham Lakes from 31st to 3rd November. One at Filey on 5th November was the only report from there and also the location's latest ever.
Monthly totals of sightings were as follows: March 1; April 22; May 23; June 13; July 6; August 10; September 43; October 16; November 1.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*
Rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant
At Brough Haven a single bird was heard singing on 20th March (EJH: RL), an early date indeed. No reports of breeding were received for the Derwent Valley, although birds were reported to be present there from 29th April, but 2 birds did frequent a site near Settle from 5th July to 4th September (KM). Migrants occurred at Blacktoft Sands on 15th July (SDW), with a second bird seen from 28th July to 4th August (SDW). A single bird remained at Coatham Marsh from 5th August to 11th September (JBD), whilst at Potteric Carr, one was seen on 20th September (SB: DC) and one was at Hornsea Mere on 24th October (WFC).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*
Rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant
A single calling bird was heard at Sherburn Ings near Scarborough on 13th July (RHA). At Spurn, south-easterly winds accompanied by rain brought a fall of "drift" migrants on 2nd September including a Corncrake flushed near the Warren (NAB *et al*). The following day 2 birds were seen; one at the Point and one near the Kilnsea church (LJD: AAH).

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*
Scarce migrant
This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March. At Sammy's Point Easington, a first-winter bird arrived on 13th March, being seen again the next day. This individual then began a tour of south Holderness, being located at Wheldon's Plantation near Winestead on 15th and 19th, at Preston from 16th to 18th and at Welwick on 18th to 19th. On 22nd it was seen near Patrington, after which it returned to Long Bank, Easington on 29th March remaining thereafter until 23rd April. On this last date, the bird began calling, before flying south over

Spurn Pont and then returning north over Easington for a final flypast. On 24th April what is likely to have been the Easington bird was seen at Pulfin Bog. Two adults were seen in fields by the A161 east of Goole on 4th April followed by another adult at Aldbrough on 6th May. Later in May, 3 birds flew south at Spurn on 14th, 2 of which continued south, the other returning north back up the Humber, and it was no doubt this bird which flew south once more on 15th.

A long-staying bird in the Derwent Valley was located on 5th June, remaining in the area for the rest of the year, whilst one circled the Triangle at Spurn on 14th, before flying north-west and was perhaps the same bird as logged on Thorne Moor on 18th June. The identity of a large bird seen for about a month at Hunsingore near York was confirmed as an adult of this species on 30th July. In East Yorkshire one was at Garton from 1st to 14th September, and may have been the same individual as that reported on Sunk Island on 16th and flying south at Spurn Point on 17th, this bird being tracked through Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk later that day. One also flew south at Blacktoft Sands on 21st September. On Hatfield Moors, an adult first reported in late March, stayed for the next five months, roosting each night on the moors, being last noted on 29th August.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Very scarce passage migrant, usually in spring; 41 previous records (45 birds)

A fine male was on the Humber shore at Spurn on 13th May (TG: DH *et al*). This species breeds along the coast of nearby continental Europe from Denmark south, and most records, usually of short-staying individuals, have occurred in May.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; has very occasionally bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, en route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county. Passage this year was relatively light. Two at Grimston on 1st May were the first. Next was one at Burbage Moor on 6th with 9 there on 13th. On 7th, 8 were observed in Upper Nidderdale and 7 on Great Whernside, some displaying. In the autumn, 2 juveniles were at Easington on 20th September, with 2 birds at Scalby Lodge Pond on 29th accompanied by a Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. A juvenile was at Old Moor on 8th October.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Rare vagrant; 17 previous records (16 birds)

A juvenile of this Nearctic species was found at Marske on 30th September (DJB *et al*). The same species was found in 1981 by the above observer, also near Marske. Previous records are:

1977	Faxfleet
1981	between Redcar and Marske
1984	2, one each at Misson and Easington
1986	Whitton Sands
1987	2, Stone Creek and Newington near Bawtry, (considered to be the same bird)

1988 Spurn
1993 Blacktoft Sands
1995 South Anston
1996 South Anston
1998 2, Saltend near Hull and Old Moor Wetlands
1999 3, Old Moor Wetlands (2) and Brough Haven

Birds reported from Blacktoft Sands and Old Moor in 1984 and Kellingley in 1999 have been accepted as referring to either American or Pacific Golden Plovers.

*(A report of a juvenile at Buckton and Flamborough Head in 1995 has not yet been submitted to or accepted by either the **YNU** or **BBRC**).*

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

Rare vagrant; 1 previous record

A moulting adult in almost full summer plumage was at Brough Haven from 6th to 25th July (RL *et al*). The bird was found feeding at low tide with a number of European Golden Plover. Towards the end of its stay it became more obliging, giving excellent views as it fed on the foreshore behind the British Aerospace factory. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 3 p.102*. This is only the second record for the county, with the previous accepted record being from Fraisthorpe in 1985. A bird previously reported from Bempton in 1975 is now accepted as being either an American or Pacific Golden Plover.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce passage migrant, more common in spring; 242 previous records (268 birds)

The first of the spring passage was at BPNR from 6th to 10th May (AAH *et al*). Also in May, one was at Beal Carrs from 7th to 8th (DJBa), one at Skelton Lake on the morning of 12th (PRM) and one was at North Cave Wetlands on 13th (GD: SM). One bird was recorded at Old Moor from 14th to 16th May and then again between 19th and 23rd (JHG: BE). Scalby Lodge Pond hosted one on 17th May (DBy: MF: SH) and one was at Astley Lake, Swillington Ings, on 22nd May (PRM).

The only autumn record was one found at Fairburn Ings on 27th August that remained until 5th September (JG *et al*). This pattern of occurrence, with passage mostly in May, is typical for this trans-Saharan migrant that breeds in northern Scandinavia and across Russia.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

Rare vagrant; 19 previous records

An adult was found on 5th August feeding on the Humber by the Crown and Anchor at Kilnsea (JAR: RIT *et al*). It was then seen intermittently until 14th August, often roosting over the high tide periods at BPNR, being specifically seen there on 6th and again on 12th to 14th. This Nearctic wader breeds in northern Canada and migrates along the eastern U.S. seaboard to winter in South America. It was the 20th record in the county and the 3rd record for Spurn Bird Observatory.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce migrant; 96 previous records (102 birds)

Three were seen together on Coatham Marsh on 7th September with one remaining to 9th (JBD *et al*), this being only the second occasion when 3 have occurred together in the county, the other being in 1970 at Cherry Cob Sands. A juvenile was at Spurn on 8th September, then at Easington Long Bank Marsh from 9th to 11th September (ST: PT) and one was at Filey Dams on 5th October (AD: TL *et al*). This species breeds in the tundra of both North America and Siberia, wintering in South America, and the origin, and route followed, of migrants occurring in our county is open to conjecture.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

Rare vagrant; 12 previous records (14 birds)

The only record for the year, and the first since 1996, was a well-watched adult at Rother Valley CP on 6th July (RG *et al*). Its arrival coincided with that of a Grey Phalarope at Horbury. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 3 p.91*. There have now been 15 individuals seen in the county, all but one since 1984 and between late April and July. This species breeds in northern Scandinavia and migrates in a south-easterly direction to winter around the Indian Ocean littoral.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

Rare vagrant; 16 previous records (probably 10 birds)

An adult was seen at Nosterfield NR on 22nd August (ND), unfortunately flushed by a Merlin *Falco columbarius* at 15.30 and not seen again. Later a juvenile was found feeding in fields at Marske on 7th October, staying until the following day (JBD *et al*). For two individuals of a species that breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada and winters in South America, to turn up in the county in the same year is unusual, although there were multiple sightings in 1975.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

Rare vagrant; 2 previous records (4 birds)

A calling bird was seen to fly repeatedly around Filey Dams NR without alighting on 30th July (CCT). A similar flight record was also accepted by **BBRC** from Spurn Point in August 1985. Formerly a very rare vagrant to Britain, there has been a marked range expansion in recent decades, with breeding records in Finland and Poland, both to the north and east of its usual range, so it seems likely occurrences will become more frequent. As suggested by the timing of records, most are wandering (post-breeding) adult birds.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

Rare vagrant; 5 previous records

One was seen at Filey Dams for two hours on 17th October (KS: NPS *et al*). This is the 6th county record of this Nearctic species. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 3 p.136.*

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn

A quite acceptable showing included a long staying bird near Spurn. A male was found roosting on the Wire Dump seashore at Spurn on the morning of 16th May. It was seen in the evening at Chalk Bank (DPB: DRM: BPW). The same bird or possibly another male was seen at BPNR on 21st May, and at adjacent set-aside pools, until 27th May. On 29th it was seen again at BPNR when it flew out to sea. In the autumn, one was at Hornsea Mere from 20th to 21st September, and a juvenile was at Welton Water from 26th to 27th September (MCu: RL *et al*). The Western Palearctic population of this delicate wader, breeds in northern Scotland and eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia, migrating overland to winter in the Arabian Sea; it is likely to remain a very scarce visitor to the county.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A superb female in full summer-plumage was found at Horbury Wyke on 6th July (BA: DMa *et al*), a plumage rarely seen in Britain. This bird was well watched and much appreciated, especially by the many birders who had already seen the Broad-billed Sandpiper at Rother Valley CP earlier in the day! Single birds were seen at Flamborough Head on 30th August (PAL *et al*) and 29th October (BR). Finally, one was seen at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 13th December, re-appearing on 25th December and remaining until 31st (MF). This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. Its migration routes are wholly oceanic, wintering at sea off West Africa and Chile. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north-westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Uncommon coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

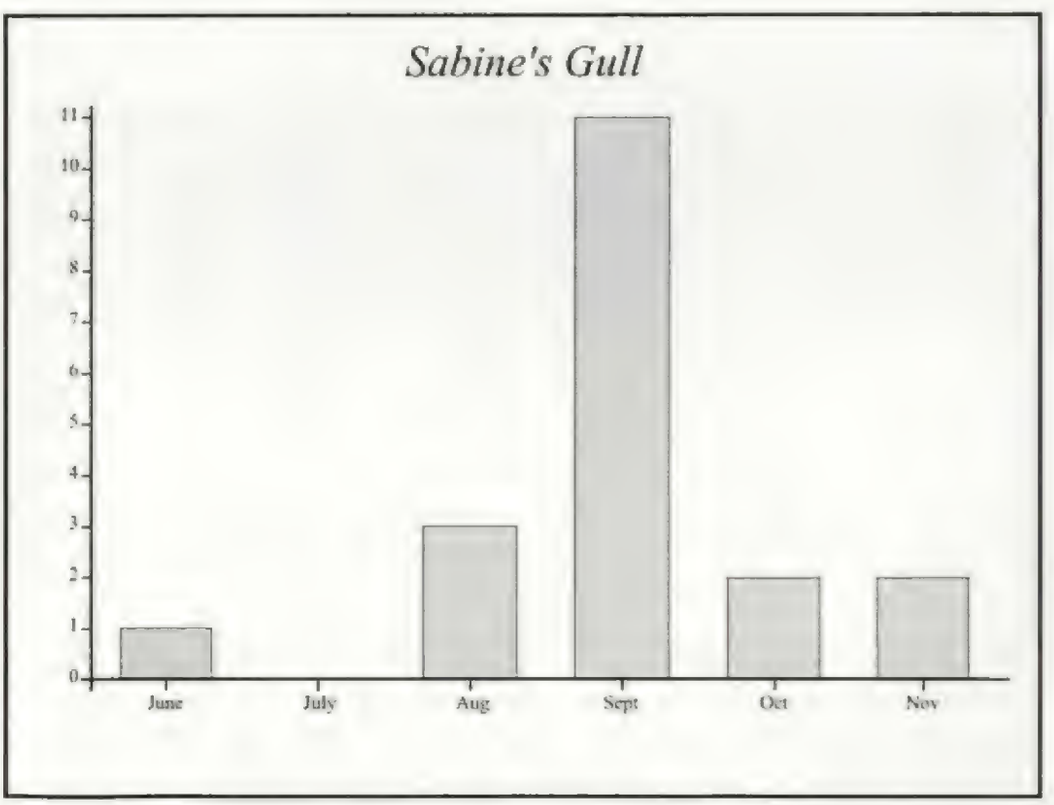
In July one was seen at Flamborough Head on 18th followed shortly by an adult which flew south at Spurn on 22nd. August produced sightings at Flamborough Head on 8th, an adult on 20th and a juvenile on 28th, and similarly at Filey Brigg where a juvenile was seen on 27th and both an adult and sub-adult south on 28th. September as usual, was the most productive month, Spurn recording juveniles flying south on 1st, 3rd and 6th, and north on 5th, with an adult south on 12th. Flamborough Head recorded single juveniles on 3rd and 4th, with 2 on 12th, an un-aged bird on 21st, with an adult and 2 juveniles on 30th. Elsewhere a single adult flew south at Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay on 2nd; 3 adults were at Long Nab, Burniston on 10th; a single juvenile was at South Gare on 12th; 2 adults flew north at Filey on 16th and a single was seen at Hummersea on 21st. In October the only record was of a juvenile flying south at Spurn on 22nd, but a white-headed juvenile that flew south there on 25th November, was the latest ever record for the Observatory.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

The first record for the year was a first-summer that flew south at Flamborough Head on 15th June, a plumage-type rarely seen in Britain, as most remain in their southern ocean wintering haunts. The next, and more expected, came in August; a juvenile flying south at Flamborough Head on 19th, another juvenile at Long Nab, Burniston on 28th (SW), whilst an adult was seen briefly on the beach at Saltwick Nab on 30th (RW). In September, an adult flew north at Flamborough Head on 1st (DJBa), Spurn recorded a juvenile flying south on 10th (SB: IL), with another south on 15th (NAB: HV), and what could have been the same bird flying north on 16th (IS). The same day 2 juveniles lingered off Staithes (MRKA), before flying north separately, and it was probably one of these that later flew north past South Gare (JBD). A juvenile flew north at Filey Brigg also on 16th (JH *et al*); a juvenile flew north at Flamborough Head on 17th, with another briefly on the Brigg at Filey on 18th (SC: JHo), which later flew north. On 19th, another juvenile flew north at Spurn (HV).

The only coastal report in October was of a juvenile flying north at Flamborough Head on 29th October. The most well watched bird of the year was a confiding juvenile present on the beach at Saltburn, but also in nearby fields, from 12th to 15th November, before moving to Brotton later in the month and staying until 14th December (BB: RCT *et al*). Two inland records this year: the first being one of the surprise finds of the year, a summer-plumaged adult in the gull roost at Southfield Res on 28th and 29th August (AM: AS: TR), and the other, a second-winter bird found in the gull roost at Pugney's CP on 7th October (MB), the same day that a Great Northern Diver turned up.



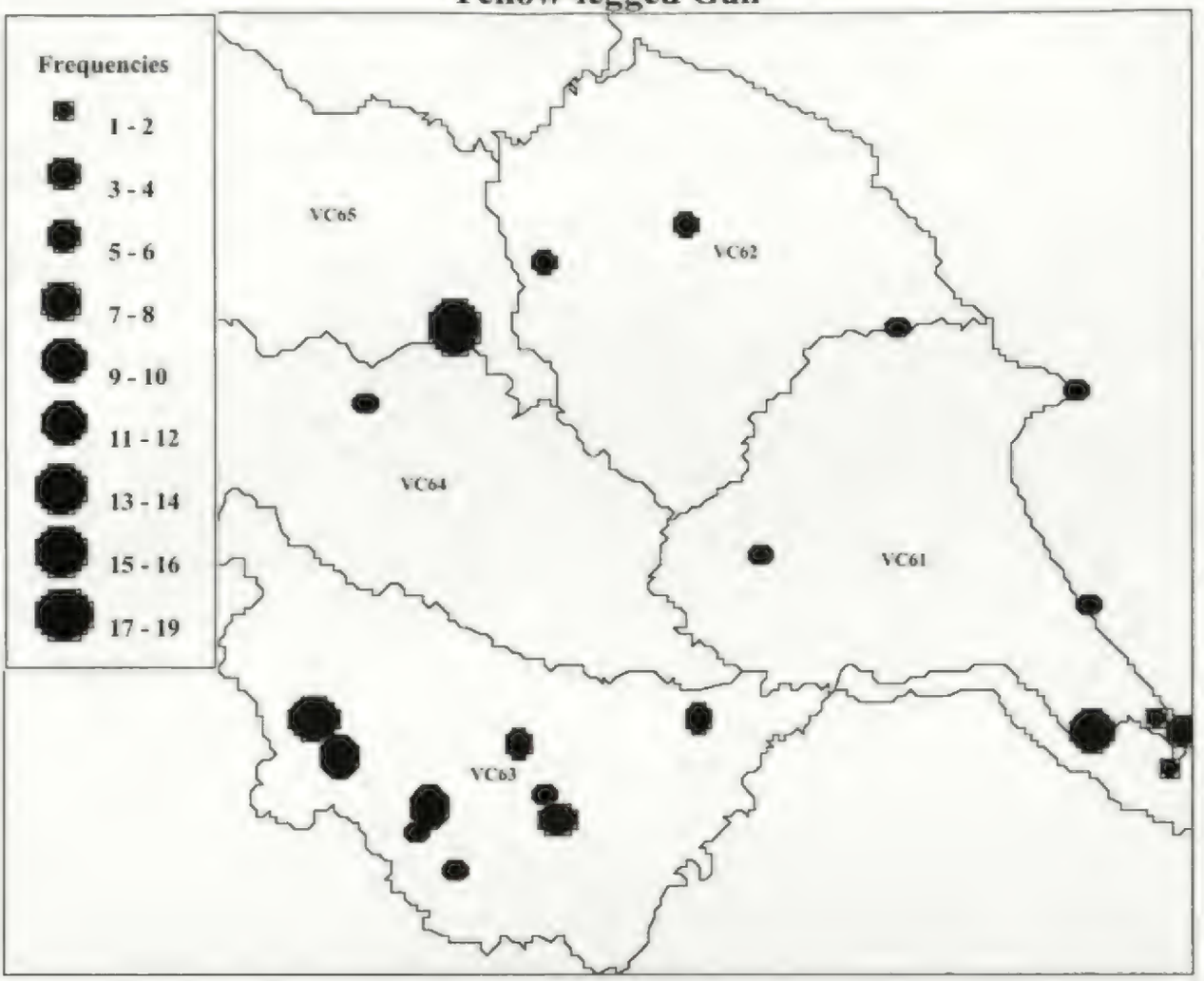
RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*
Rare vagrant; 23 previous records
The adult first seen on 31st December 1999, was still at Scalby Mills on 1st January, giving many grateful birders a chance to add this rare species to their county lists. It was seen thereafter on 11th, 26th and 28th January, 26th February and 1st and 12th March (DBy: MF: SH *et al*) and a full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 1 p.24.* An advanced first-summer, or a second-summer bird, was photographed at BPNR on 23rd May (JTH). With increasingly frequent occurrences on the west coast of the British Isles, it is strange that this North American gull does not feature more regularly in our reports.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*
Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis*
Scarce summer visitor and migrant
Records in the first half of the year began promptly with an adult at Broomhead Res on 3rd January, followed shortly by 2 adults at Blackley Tip on 17th (and a single there on 19th), and one at Thorpe Marsh on 23rd. February sightings included a first-winter at Southfield Res on 5th February, single adults at Flamborough Head on 7th and Gouthwaite Res on 9th. There was then a lull until May when a long-staying adult was found at Sammy's Point, Easington on 2nd, this remaining through until 29th September, whilst Old Moor hosted adults on 6th and 8th. In June single adults were again at Old Moor on 13th, 21st and 23rd, whilst one seen at Melton on 27th was also present on 8th July. In July single adults appeared at BPNR on 2nd, 20th and 30th, at Nosterfield NR infrequently from 6th to 29th with 2 on 30th, on which date one was watched at Lakeside, Doncaster. Single adults were also recorded at Wintersett Res on 13th, Blackmoorfoot Res on both 25th and 27th, Gouthwaite Res on 28th, Ringstone Edge Res from 29th to 31st, and at Lakeside near Doncaster on 30th.

Numbers increased as usual in August: an adult was at Bridlington on 1st, with singles at East Newton on 2nd and Shaftholme Ings on 5th. Blackmoorfoot Res recorded single adults on 4th, 11th, 12th and 20th. Nosterfield NR recorded singles on 6th and from 19th to 29th, with 2 on 26th. Two adults were at Ringstone Edge Res on 6th, with singles from 2nd to 3rd, and 7th to 8th. A single adult was at Skeffling on 6th, but 12 adults were found roosting and feeding on nearby Sunk Island on 12th. Thornton Lodge Res recorded an adult from 13th August to 8th September, and a first-summer moulting to second-winter on 15th. A single was at Old Moor on 12th and one was at Southfield Res on 23rd and 28th. At Royd Moor Res, birds were reported on thirteen dates between 7th August and 30th September, with a minimum of 8 different birds in the period 7th August to 3rd September and a maximum of 3 on 13th August. Elsewhere in September, an adult and a sub-adult were at Blackmoorfoot Res on 1st, with adults also there on 25th and 28th. Nosterfield NR recorded 2 on 2nd, one on 8th, 3 on 9th, one on 26th and 3 on 30th. Single birds were at Southfield Res on 9th, Wintersett Res on 11th and 21st, and Lakeside on 30th. In October 2 adults were at Blackmoorfoot Res on 3rd, with an

adult and first-winter on 20th. Singles were at Lakeside on 15th, Nosterfield on 7th and from 13th to 27th, and an adult at Wintersett Res on 13th. In November a single birds were seen at both Nosterfield NR and Lakeside on 4th and an adult was at Melton on 11th. Finally in December, an adult was found roosting at Langsett Res on 24th and a single was again at Nosterfield NR on 27th.

Yellow-legged Gull



ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

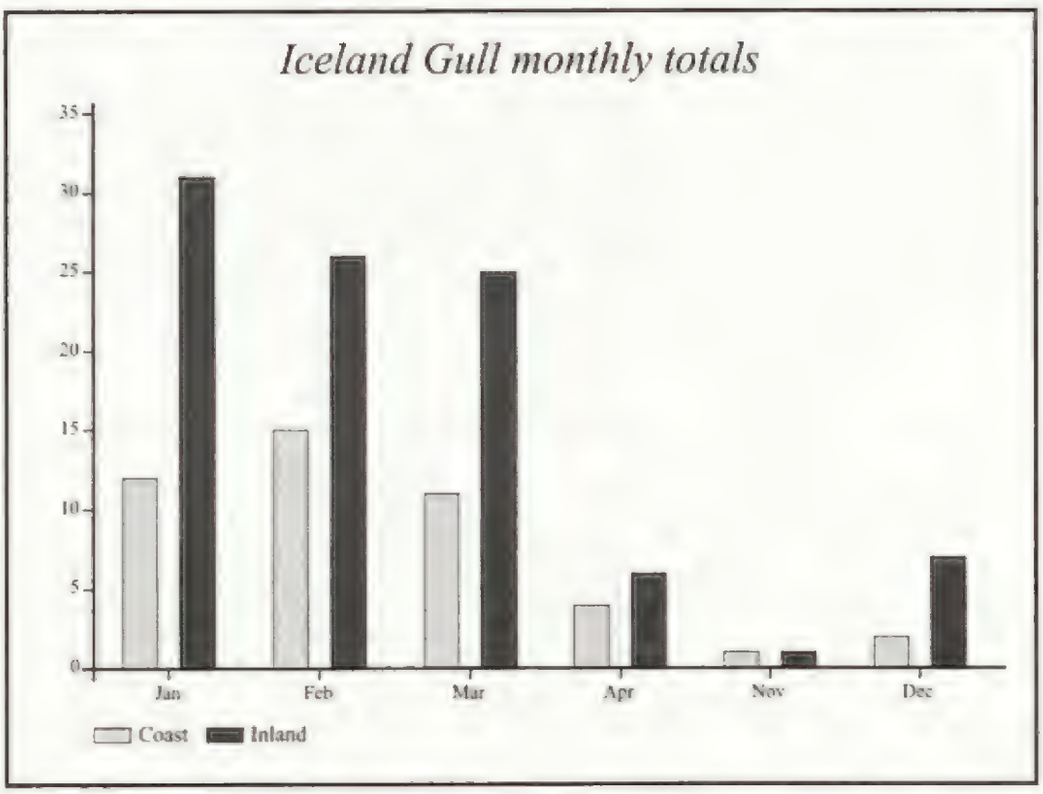
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

About 80 to 100 records were received of this winter visitor from Greenland, of which seventy-five per cent related to first-year birds. There was a good showing in the early winter period, particularly from coastal areas.

On the coast a first-winter remained at Whitby from 1st January to 19th March, whilst a second bird, showing some characteristics of first-winter Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni,* was seen from 5th to 8th January. An adult was at Scalby Mills on 1st January with a first-year on a number of dates from 2nd to 16th January, then again on 13th, 26th and 28th February, with 3 first-winters thought to be present on 27th along with a third-year bird. A second-winter was present on

21st. At nearby Flamborough Head, first-winter birds were seen on 9th and 23rd January, on 7th February and regularly from 25th to 28th February. At Bridlington a first-year was seen on 14th January and again from 18th February to 18th March, with 2 together on 17th February. An adult was seen at Spurn on 16th January and 28th February, with a first- or second-year bird in fields near the Riverside Hotel on 23rd January. In March, a first-winter was at Seaton Carr on 3rd and a first-year at Barmston on 5th. A first-winter was at Scalby Mills between 8th and 25th. A sub-adult in roadside fields at East Newton was presumably the same bird seen at Mappleton on 10th, when a third-year bird was also present. Spurn Point attracted a second-winter on 9th, a first-winter on 11th and an adult on 23rd, with a first-winter at Hornsea Mere also on 11th. A first-winter was in Burniston Bay on 15th. In April a second-winter was at Flamborough Head on 8th though a first-summer at Long Nab, Burniston flying south was the last record for the first half of the year.

In the second half of the year there were few records from the coast: a first-winter at Spurn on 7th November, a first-winter south at Cromer Point on 2nd December and an adult at Filey, Coble Landing on 15th December.



Inland in **VC 61**, 2 immatures were at the Humber Bridge on 2nd January, with one on 8th and 25th. Wheldrake Ings attracted first-winters on 8th, 14th January and 19th February; a second-winter on 22nd January then again from 10th to 14th February, with 2 on 14th; and an adult on both 19th February and 18th March. One was at Stone Creek on 15th January, a first-winter at TLNR on 30th January, a first-winter at Kellingley on 11th February, with a first-year at Leven Tip on 9th March, and a second-year and adult both present there on 10th March.

On the foreshore at Melton, a first-year was seen from 30th March to 13th April, with 2 present 10th to 16th April. A first-year was in Hull on 30th March.

In **VC 63** and **VC 64**, Fairburn Ings hosted a first-year from 2nd to 3rd and 7th to 13th January. Broomhead Res recorded first-years on 11th January and 12th February. Sightings were more frequent at Southfield Res where a first-winter roosted regularly between 1st and 20th January, plus an adult on 13th and an immature on 17th, which re-appeared on 2nd and 4th to 5th February and a first-winter on 12th to 13th February. An adult was recorded on 29th February, 1st and 3rd March, and first-year birds were also seen on 31st March, 5th April and 30th December. A first-winter at Blackley Tip near Halifax on 9th and 15th January was thought to be the same bird that roosted at Blackmoorfoot Res on 15th and 16th. First-winters were seen at Peckfield Tip on 15th January, Wintersett Res on 18th, 19th, 23rd and 30th January, Bar Lane Quarry on 5th February and Knottingley on 12th February. Birds not aged flew over New Swillington Ings on 23rd January and 15th February, and a first-year came in to roost there on 9th April. Adults were seen at Bar Lane Quarry and Manywells Tip, Bingley on 4th March and a first-year was at Roche Abbey on 6th March. In December adults were at Swinsty Res on 23rd, Thornton Moor Res from 26th to 31st and at Hewenden Res on 28th.

In **VC 65** all records came from Nosterfield NR: a sub-adult from 20th January to 5th February, an adult from 19th to 25th February and again from 4th to 9th March.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Over 100 reports were received this year of this winter visitor from the Arctic, which breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast. Even allowing for some duplication of records, this represents an increase over the last two years. Nearly all the records received were of first- or second-year birds, and unless stated all records relate to birds of those ages.

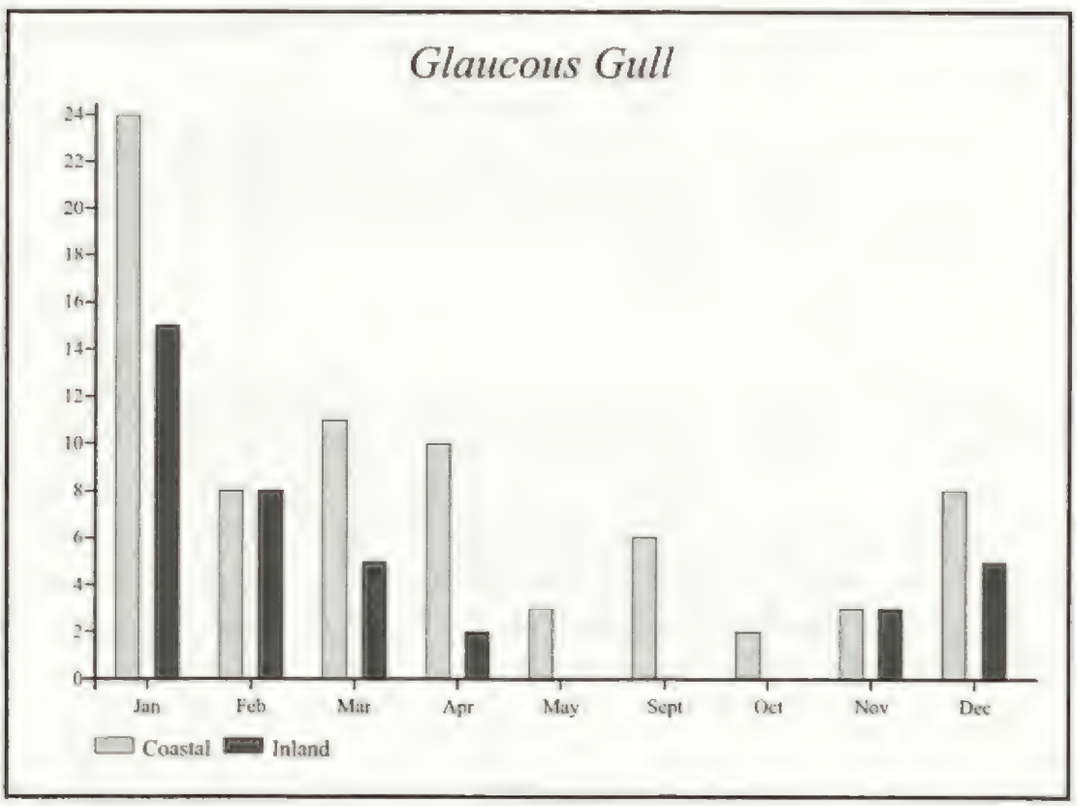
In **VC 61** Filey hosted 2 on 1st January, one on 27th January, one from 21st to 27th February, with 2 on 27th and 28th February. One was at Filey Dams on 3rd April. In autumn, early birds were at the Dams on 5th September and on the Brigg from 30th September to 1st October. Single birds were reported from 31st October to 4th November and on 29th December.

At Flamborough Head in January, singles were seen on 1st, 3rd and 8th, with 2 on 12th and singles again on 13th and 22nd. An adult was seen on 20th February and again on 27th. Two including an adult, were recorded on 10th March, with one on 11th. Singles were also seen on 17th and 20th March, with 2 on 19th. One on 9th April was the last in the first half of the year. In the autumn the first bird was seen on 8th September, followed by singles between 8th and 10th October, 10th and 11th November, 2nd and 3rd December and on 12th December.

Elsewhere, singles were at Bridlington on 14th February and 17th December, at Aldbrough on 21st February, 8th and 9th March and at Grimston on 22nd September. Spurn hosted single birds on 8th February, 27th February, 3rd

March and 24th December, with the individual seen on the first date also noted at BPNR on 31st January. Inland in VC 61, the Melton Foreshore attracted one or two birds between 11th and 14th April and again from 28th to 29th April, whilst Wheldrake Ings recorded singles between 4th and 31st January, with 2 on 7th, and an adult on 15th February.

In **VC 62** in Teesside, the first 2 were at South Gare on 22nd January, with one on 22nd April, which was seen again on 2nd May, and a further bird on 19th November. At Scaling Dam 2 were also seen on 22nd January. Whitby attracted 2 on 1st January, with an adult seen regularly from the beginning of the year until 5th March. Other records here included singles on 8th January; from 8th to 25th February; and on 5th March. In the second half of the year one stayed from 26th November to 16th December whilst the regular adult returned on 2nd December. Birds were seen in the Scarborough and Scalby Mills area on 3rd, 8th, 9th and 18th January. In February, an adult was at Scalby on 11th and 12th, plus one on 26th. In March, one was at Scalby on 14th March with another on 13th April. One on 3rd September was the first in this area for the autumn, with subsequent adults on 16th September and 7th November. In December, single birds were seen on 10th and 31st.



In **VC 63,** notably scarcer than Iceland Gull, beginning when a single bird flew south-west over Wintersett Res on 1st January. A different bird roosted on 9th, and another roosted on 22nd. Singles were seen at Broomhead Res on 3rd January, at Ingbirthworth Res on 12th February and at nearby Langsett Res on 4th November. Singles also frequented Cullingworth Res from 10th to 15th January,

Southfield Res on 3rd February and at Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings on 15th February and 9th April. Thorne Moors attracted a third-winter on 19th March, and then subsequently on a further 3 dates that month. The first bird of the autumn was at Old Moor on 20th November, followed by one at Lakeside on 25th December, with the last, a bird at the Pugneys CP roost on 26th December.

In **VC 64** and **VC 65**, a single bird was seen at Fairburn Ings on 1st January, and again on 2nd, 11th and 14th January. One was at Starbeck on 14th January, with further singles at Hay-a-Park GP on 20th March, on which date an adult was also recorded. Another adult there on 26th December was the only record for the second half of the year.

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

Rare vagrant; 32 previous records (26 birds)

One that lingered outside the county at Saltholme Pools and Seaton Snook in Teesside from 2nd to 5th August, made an appearance at Bran Sands on 5th (BB: GL: RCT *et al*). Most county reports of this rare visitor from the Baltic and south-east Europe, have been wandering adults in summer, with none making a protracted stay. The earliest has been 19th March and the latest 26th September, with most occurring from May to August, so this record falls well within the expected range.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/ autumn

The recent upsurge in records continued, with around 110 reports of this species constituting a record year. Most presumably emanate from the small colonies in Northumberland and eastern Scotland, where recent improved breeding success perhaps accounts for the increase, although increased observer competence in the identification criteria may also have a large part to play. The first flew south at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 15th May, with the next at Flamborough Head on 29th. Reports in June included a series of singles from Flamborough Head: on 5th, 10th, 18th and 24th, with 2 on 25th. One was at South Gare on 18th and one flew north at Spurn on 25th. In July birds lingered at Bran Sands to be seen on 4th, 5th and 19th, with 2 on 24th. Another regular site was BPNR, where 2 were seen on both 8th and 30th. Additional singles were seen at South Gare on 6th, Flamborough Head on 11th, 24th and 25th and at Spurn on 24th.

From August into September, a number of birds including some family parties graced our coastline, although the exact number of individuals involved is difficult to determine. Between 14th August and 4th September, up to 8 were off South Gare, with 3 still present on 13th September and 2 on 15th. A juvenile was on the rocks at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 11th August, a juvenile passed Flamborough Head on 14th, a single was recorded at Filey Brigg on 16th, one was at Scalby Mills on 18th before 3 flew south past Filey Brigg on 19th. Filey continued to attract birds; 2 adults and a juvenile lingered on the Brigg on both 21st and 22nd, an adult flew south there on 27th (when 2 also flew south at

Flamborough Head) and 6 proceeded south past Filey on 28th. Further down the coast in the Spurn/BPNR area, an adult was recorded at BPNR on 5th, and perhaps the same bird flew south at Spurn the next day. Two flew south at Spurn on 17th; there was an adult at BPNR on 18th, 2 adults there on 19th, one on 27th and 3 adults and a juvenile on 28th. At nearby Spurn, unprecedented numbers were recorded, involving up to 9 birds almost daily from 23rd August to 17th September, usually during the southerly evening tern movements. Peaks were in September, with 7 adults and 2 juveniles on 5th, 9 adults on 7th, 7 on 8th and 6 including 2 juveniles on 11th. Two adults and a juvenile were reported at Hornsea on 11th, with the last 2 at BPNR noted on 19th and then again a few days later on 22nd September.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*
Rare vagrant; 7 previous records
A summer-plumaged adult was found on floods at North Cliff, Flamborough Head on 4th June (DBy *et al*), remaining for most of the day. The Whiskered Tern breeds from the Iberian peninsula east through the Mediterranean to India and the European population winters mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. It has bred sporadically in the Netherlands but is not a frequent overshooting visitor to Britain. This is only the third Yorkshire record in the last twenty years. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 2 p.54.*

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Rare vagrant; 47 previous records (46 birds)
An adult in full summer-plumage flew south offshore at Spurn at 06.30 on 28th July (DPB: MGS), becoming only the third record for the site, previous ones being in July 1964 and May 1983. A juvenile, accompanied by 2 Black Terns *Chlidonias niger*, was seen off South Gare on the evening of 19th September (JBD), whilst another juvenile made regular appearances at Tophill Low NR between 15th and 19th October (JB: WFC *et al*). White-winged (Black) Terns breed from Poland eastwards and winter mainly in East Africa. The three records this year maintain a recent upsurge in sightings in the county; there were four records in 1998 and six in 1999.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
This scarce bird to the Yorkshire coast was recorded from just 2, rather typical, localities. The first was recorded off Scarborough's Marine Drive on 3rd September (NWA), followed two days later by possibly the same single off Flamborough Head on 5th September. Two subsequent records from Flamborough Head occurred on the 8th and 14th October. Breeding on the coast of west Scotland up to the Shetlands, this species can be pushed south into the North Sea by northerly winds, though records have occurred in a variety of months. The September birds here accompanied a movement of shearwaters.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Passage migrant and winter visitor, in greatly varying numbers

A lean year for this sub-arctic species, with only 18 individuals reported, reflecting the absence of severe northerly gales. Only 2 reports in the first half of the year; the first being picked up dead in the Totem Pole field at Filey CP on 16th January and the second flying north to land on the sea off Cromer Point on 12th February. Unusually there were no reports in October, and the next was not until November, when singles were recorded in Filey Bay on 6th, south past the Brigg on 7th, off Ulrome on 20th and on the sea at Flamborough Head on 26th. December produced a better showing: 3 passed Flamborough Head on 2nd; 2 passed Long Nab, Burniston with one off Flamborough Head on 3rd; one lingered off Skinningrove on 13th; 2 passed Flamborough Head on 17th and 2 flew south past Filey Brigg on 24th, when one was off Robin Hood's Bay.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escapes

It is assumed that records in Yorkshire refer to escapes from captivity due to the distance from the nearest feral breeding populations, however, reported sightings will be published to monitor the situation.

One near Muston Grange on 21st March later moved to Primrose Valley where it remained until 8th April, thereafter roaming locally until 21st May. An unexpected sight was one seen from a sea watch at Flamborough Head on 6th September, whilst one flew over Staveley NR on 12th November, and one was spotted feeding on a bird-table in a garden in Gledhow on 28th December.

CHIMNEY SWIFT *Chaetura pelagica*

Rare vagrant

One was watched for about ten minutes on the evening of 6th August over Clubley's Field at Spurn, before flying north with Common Swifts *Apus apus* (NAB: AHH *et al*), thereby becoming the first record for Yorkshire and the 12th for Britain. Chimney Swift is a fairly widespread summer breeder to eastern North America and winters in South America, particularly Peru. All the previous British records have been in the late autumn period including at least five in 1999. It seems likely that the Spurn individual arrived in autumn 1999 and stayed on this side of the Atlantic, as did one reported in Norway on 26th May 2000. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 3 p.99.*

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

Rare vagrant from Europe, annual in recent years; 234 previous records

This south European migrant regularly overshoots in spring, and this year was no exception. The first of two records in April was on the coast at Grimston on 18th (TI: AFJ), but it was the second, which favoured a Ripon garden from 23rd to 25th, which was to become a popular attraction for the county's birdwatchers and many good photographic opportunities were to be had.

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*
Scarce coastal passage migrant; rare inland
This distinctive species is a summer visitor to continental Europe and occurs in Yorkshire as an occasional "drift" migrant in spring, but more commonly in autumn. The only one reported in spring this year was on 24th April at Bempton, after light south-easterly winds.

At least 16 individuals were seen on the coast during the autumn, with the first at Spurn Point on 24th August. On 1st September, one was at Shrubbery Farm on Sunk Island (Mrs SO), the forerunner to a "fall" of this species discovered on the coast over the following few days. On 2nd, singles were at Whitestone Point (to 4th), at Filey CP and at Spurn Point, whilst the 3rd brought one to Primrose Valley and 5 were located at Spurn, 2 remaining there to 4th. Surprisingly there were no reports from Flamborough Head in this period, but 2 were in Syke's Plantation on 20th, with another trapped at Whitestone Point on 21st. One was at Scarborough Castle on 28th and the last back at Spurn Point on 4th October.

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Very scarce coastal passage migrant; 29 previous records
Only two reports were received, both from South Gare. One was present in the Lagoon/Cabin Rocks area from 30th April to 5th May (NAP *et al*), and the other, probably a different individual, was flushed from Cabin Rocks on 15th May

(NAP). Spring birds tend to be of the browner, western form, and are over-shooting migrants from southern Europe.

HORNED (SHORE) LARK *Eremophila alpestris*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Very few reports were received of this annual visitor from Scandinavia and arctic Russia. Strangely, 2 on the cliff-top at Atwick on 11th January were the only coastal wintering birds reported. Spring migrants from further south appeared on the coast in April, when 2 were in fields above the Tip at Filey on 17th, and in May when one remained at Scalby Lodge from 8th to 13th. In late autumn, the first appeared at Spurn Point on 4th November, with 3 at Flamborough Head on 9th and one at BPNR on 13th. In December one was at Spurn Point on 16th and 3 were found at Barmston on 24th. Occasional records are received from inland locations, this year involving one at Ingbirchworth Res from 26th March to 15th April (SGA).

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*
Rare passage migrant; 33 previous records (35 birds)
One at TLNR on 9th May (TMR) was the only record.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland
Eleven birds occurred between the end of September and the beginning of November, this constituting a typical batch of records of this Central Asian species. The first was at Spurn Point on 25th September, remaining until the 29th. Singles were then at East Newton from 30th September to 1st October (AFJ) and at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 24th October (MF). Easterlies and an east coast "fall" produced several birds in early November. One was at Spurn Point from 6th to 8th, with a second bird from 7th to 12th. At Filey CP one was present from 8th to 14th with 2 together on the 13th. Elsewhere, 2 were at Aldbrough on 9th and 10th November (AFJ) with one on 12th, and further singles were noted in November at Long Nab, Burniston (MWA: JH: PS *et al*) from 11th to 12th, at Barmston on 12th (FXM: IF) and at Ness Point, Whitby on 20th (SMi: HK).

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*
Rare coastal passage migrant; 23 previous records
Though this species is a fairly widespread breeder across central and southern Europe, it is surprisingly rare in Yorkshire. However, there were three records this year, beginning when one was found at Sammy's Point, Easington on 19th April, staying until the 20th (MFS: DPB). An excellent photograph of this bird was published in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 2 p.6*. Less than a month later, a popular adult was in the Chalk Bank area at Spurn Point, remaining from 13th to 15th May (KD et al.). Something of a rarity away from Spurn, one was seen briefly at Boulby Cliffs on 24th April (ECP).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Rare coastal passage migrant; 23 previous records

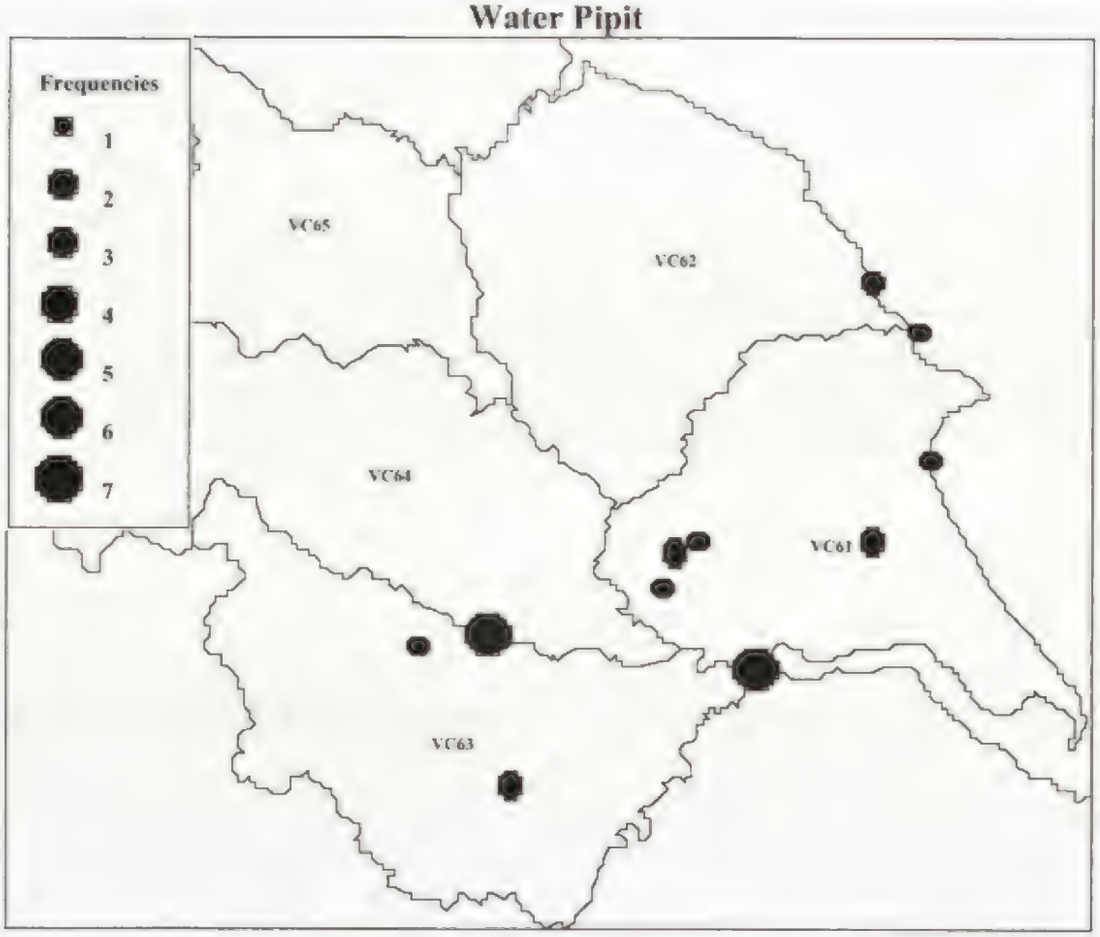
One was at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 20th September (RSS), following close on the heels of 2 seen there the previous year. This long-distance migrant breeds from arctic Norway and Sweden east to eastern Siberia. The majority of records have been in May, September and October, with a recent increase in autumn reports.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

At least 12 were seen in the early part of the year. At Lemonroyd SF, birds were present up until the 4th April, with maximum counts of 3 on 28th February and 4 on 27th March (MB: PRM *et al*). A single at Skelton Lake on 6th January (DAH) is likely to have been one of these birds. The regular wintering bird at Broomhill Flash, encountered between January and March was last seen on 11th April. Sightings from the Lower Derwent Valley, included singles at Wheldrake Ings on both 1st and 19th February and at North Duffield Carrs on 13th February (CSR). A winter-plumaged bird frequented PHENR on 19th March with a summer-plumaged bird there on 26th March (DGH). Additional singles on spring passage graced Barmston on 21st March (EC), Almholme on 2nd April, Scarborough Castle on 14th April (DBy: SW) and Melton Common on 18th and 19th April (EJH: RL).

Water Pipit



The first of the autumn was one at Blacktoft Sands on 29th September, then 5 were there between 16th to 18th October and a single bird in November and December. At Lemonroyd SF, the first returning bird was present on 25th November, with 3 birds by the year-end (MB: PRM *et al*). Elsewhere, one was at Morley SF throughout November and December, one at Welton Water from 8th to 28th November (EJH: RL), one at Old Moor on 21st November, one at Ellerton on 19th December (CSR) and one at Filey Brigg on 22nd December (CCS: SC).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*
Rare vagrant
Two records, both in the classic late May to early June period, of this form that breeds from central Sweden east to Russia. A male was near Blacktoft Sands in pea fields east of Ousefleet village on 28th May (SDW) and another was at Whitestone Point on 4th and 6th June (JAB: RSS).

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Rare breeding summer visitor in the south and increasingly rare passage migrant
On Thorne Moors, the only regular breeding location in Yorkshire, 13 males were holding territory, after the first on 21st April. Nearby, a nocturnal songster frequented a garden in Lindholme village on 24th April, with probably the same bird at Tyrham Hall GP on 25th. A male also sang on adjacent Hatfield Moors between 22nd and 24th May.

Migrants were typically scarce. Singles found in April were at Sammy's Point from 15th to 16th, Bempton from 17th to 19th and one was at the Narrows at Spurn on 24th (AG *et al*). One was at Middle Camp, Spurn on 24th May (CA).

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*
Scarce coastal passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species
The red-spotted race is a regular migrant to northern Europe and mid-May is the optimum time, although the white-spotted form occurs earlier, usually in April. A lack of favourable easterlies during the spring ensured records were at a premium. At Filey CP, two red-spotted males were seen. The first was ringed in the Top Scrub on 5th May (PJD *et al*) remaining until the following day but was later picked up dead on a fishing boat off the Norwegian coast! The second was present on Carr Naze from 7th to 8th May (IR: DJW *et al*). At Spurn, a red-spotted male was present at the Point on 27th May (BRS). A female at Filey CP on 3rd June (SC *et al*) was presumably a red-spotted bird.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*
Rare vagrant; 6 previous records
The 7th for Yorkshire was a superb male frequenting Rockhole Quarry, Boulby Cliffs from 12th to 14th November (NJ: HM *et al*). This species breeds from

Morocco east to Central Asia, with our autumn records most likely to be accounted for by reverse migration of eastern birds.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species
After the exciting events of 1999, a very poor showing this year. The only record supported by a description was of a bird trapped and ringed at Saltburn on 5th June (DAM). This species breeds from the Low Countries, Denmark and southern Sweden east to Russia, wintering in East Africa, and is therefore to be expected as an over-shooting migrant in spring.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*
Rare vagrant; 14 previous records
One at Spurn Point from 26th to 27th August (AR: GS *et al)* was the 7th for the Observatory, though the 9th for the Spurn area. It was also the earliest record in autumn for Yorkshire. Nominate *caligata* breeds as close as Estonia, and migrates in a south-easterly direction to winter on the Indian sub-continent, with reverse migration explaining our autumn records.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn
Surprisingly there were no spring records this year. There were however 5 autumn occurrences, the first of which was at Filey CP on 11th September (PMS *et al*). Another was present there from 20th to 25th September and was trapped in the Top Scrub (TLH *et al*) and a third, un-ringed bird, was seen on 28th September (CCT *et al*). One was at Ness Point, on 23rd September (JAB: NCD: AZ).

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*
Rare vagrant; 6 previous records
The 7th for Yorkshire and only the second away from Flamborough Head was at Spurn Point, when a singing male was discovered at the Warren on 31st May (DPB: BRS: TR *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 2 p.65.* This species breeds from North Africa to Belgium and West Germany, and has been spreading northwards recently.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*
Rare migrant; annual in recent years and more frequent in spring; 22 previous records
A good year with 3 records of this Mediterranean species. The first was a male at Flamborough Head on 5th June (RB: GC *et al*). A moulting first-summer male was trapped at Spurn Point on 12th July (DPB *et al*), a particularly un-seasonal date. Another male was seen briefly at Spurn Point on 4th September (AR: JGr) and what was considered to be the same bird, seen again there on 16th September (DH).

DESERT WARBLER *Sylvia nana*

Rare vagrant; 2 previous records

The third Yorkshire record and the second spring record for Britain attracted a popular following when an eastern bird, *S. n. nana* remained at Sammy's Point, Easington from 7th to 11th May (MF: AP: MFS *et al*). The last Yorkshire record was at Flamborough Head in October 1991. The nominate, eastern race *nana* is highly migratory, breeding in Kazakhstan, Iran and Turkestan east to Mongolia and winters in south-west Asia and north-east Africa. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 2 p.66.*

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

A poor year with only 3 acceptable records of a species that breeds from southern Scandinavia south to Switzerland and then east to south-central Siberia. The first was found along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 22nd August, later followed by one at Filey CP from 2nd to 3rd September (JH *et al*). There was just one record from Spurn, at the Narrows on 30th September (JT), the last of a disappointing autumn.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Rare coastal migrant, mostly in autumn; 37 previous records, 4 in spring

Two records this year, both typical in date and location. One frequented the Point at Spurn from 27th to 29th August (LJD: AR), but was elusive throughout its stay. The other frequented Flamborough Head from 2nd to 4th September (FXM *et al*). This species breeds as close as Finland and Estonia, and occasionally further west in Sweden and Denmark, and winters in India and South-east Asia.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*

Rare autumn coastal migrant; 11 previous records

Two records this year, the first since 1997, of this long distance migrant, and both in the Spurn area. The first was a very elusive bird present at the Point from 31st August to 2nd September (DPB *et al*). The second was much more obliging during a protracted stay around Kilnsea between 7th and 17th October, during which time it was trapped (DPB: LJD: DH *et al*). Arctic Warblers breed to the north of the previous species, (hence its name), from northern Norway east to Alaska, undertaking a long migration, that usually commences in August, to winter in south-east Asia including Indonesia and the Philippines.

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland

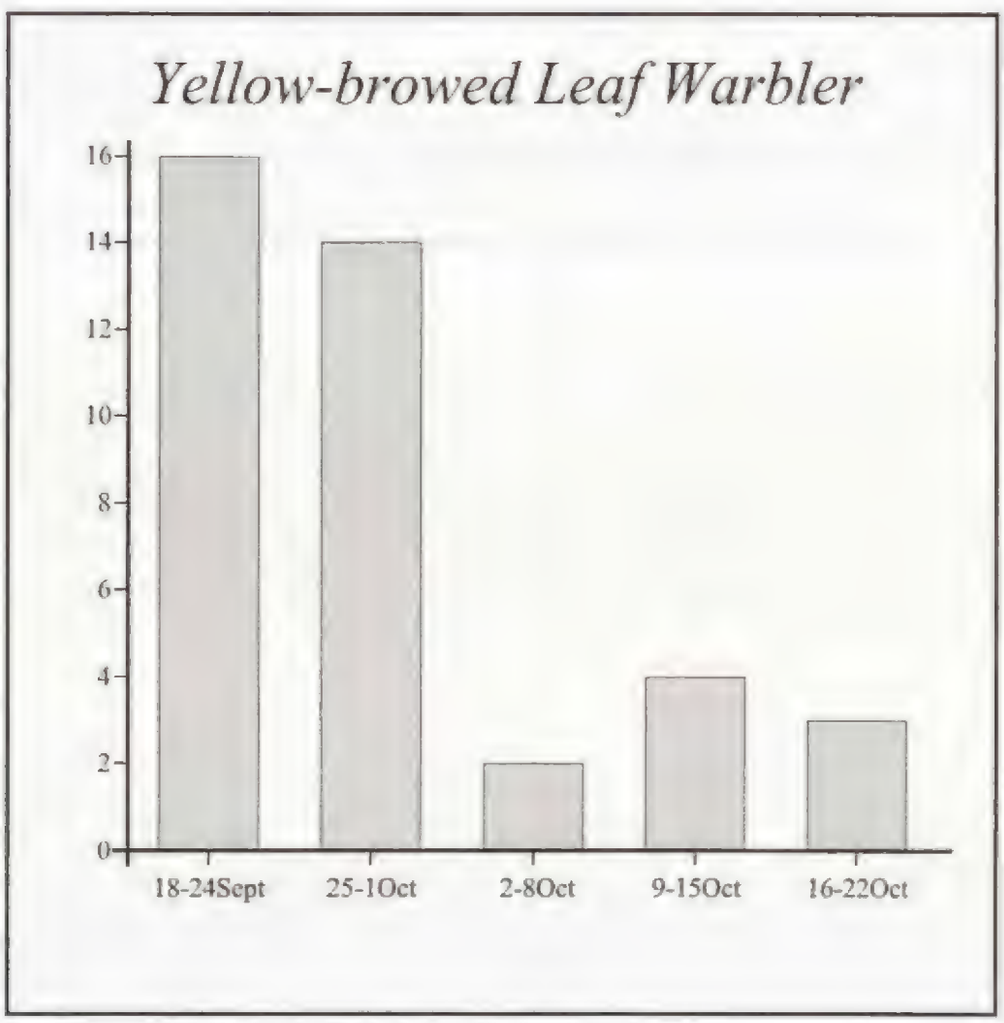
The nominate northern race *proregulus* breeds in the mountains of Asia from the Altai east to northern Mongolia and winters in southern China. Leaving its breeding grounds in late August and September, reverse migrants usually begin to arrive on our shores in the last three weeks of October, if weather conditions assist. The autumn looked set to draw a blank until an exceptional fall of migrants for the

time of year, produced at least 14 birds in November. At Filey CP, 3 were present from 6th to 9th November (JS: CCT: AN *et al*), with another from 8th to 12th November (DM *et al*) and an additional one on the 9th November (AW: HJW *et al*). At Spurn Point one was in Canal Hedge on 6th November (NPW: SE: BRS), with another near the lighthouse on 7th November (AR) and a third in the Crown & Anchor car park from 7th to 8th November (DPB *et al*). A single was in South Landing, Flamborough Head from 6th to 12th November (*per* DBy: SH). Away from our 3 coastal hot-spots, singles were at Marske on 6th November (MAS) and South Gare from 7th to 8th November (JBD: GI *et al*).

YELLOW-BROWED LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland

This species breeds abundantly from the Urals east to the sea of Okhotsk and south to Sayan, wintering from the Himalayas to south-east Asia. It usually begins to appear in our county in late September, with two-thirds occurring in October. This was an excellent autumn for this superb bird with at least 40 seen, including notable arrivals in September around 19th/20th, another on the 30th, and several birds also seen during October.



The first occurred at Grimston and Spurn Point on 19th September. Next day a good arrival produced 5 at Flamborough Head, 4 at Ness Point, (Robin Hood's Bay) and 3 at Spurn Point, plus the single that remained at Grimston. New arrivals on the 21st included 2 at Filey CP, plus 2 lingering at Ness Point, and one at Buckton. One was at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 23rd September, with 2 at Bempton and one at Ness Point on the 24th. New birds were noted at Flamborough Head on the 25th and 26th and one was at Sammy's Point, Easington from 29th to 30th September, with one at Hunt Cliff, Saltburn on 30th. At least 7 birds were discovered at Spurn between 30th September and 2nd October, with daily totals of 5 on 30th, 7 on 1st and one on the 2nd, with an additional bird along nearby Beacon Lane, Kilnsea. One was in Church Ravine, Filey CP from 1st to 3rd October and another bird delighted observers at Grimston from 4th to 6th October, whilst a new bird was found at Spurn on 8th October. Further birds were noted at Flamborough Head on 11th and 21st October, at Easington cemetery on 13th October, at Filey Dams from 15th to 17th October, at Ness Point on 15th October, back at Filey CP from 21st to 23rd October and finally at Spurn on 22nd October.

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei*

Rare coastal migrant in late autumn; 5 previous records

Yorkshire shared in a national influx of this subtle rarity with 3 birds found following an east coast fall at the beginning of November, constituting the 6th to 8th accepted county records. The first was at Filey CP on 8th November (CCT: HJW *et al*). Two birds were then found on the 11th; one at Whitestone Point, Whitby remaining to the 12th {JAB: RSS *et al*), and the other at Flamborough Head which remained to the 13th, during which time it was trapped (RB: IF: FXM *et al*). This species breeds from the Sayan and Altai mountains south to the north-west Himalayas, and therefore has a greater distance to travel than the preceding species; this presumably accounts for the generally later arrival dates.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 23 or 24 previous records

A record autumn for this Siberian migrant produced 9 records, but quite bizarrely, 8 of these were found as part of a localised fall at Spurn Point at the end of September. Bearing this in mind, it is a sobering thought to remember that the first county record was as recently as 1978.

Four birds were found at Spurn on the 30th September: one at Kew Villa just after midday, was trapped there in the evening, then present again the following morning before being relocated along Beacon Lane in the afternoon (DPB: DH: TR *et al*); a second bird was trapped at the Warren in the early afternoon and remained in the Canal Hedge to the 2nd October (PJA: RJL *et al*); an un-ringed bird was present in the Canal Hedge/Pallas's Pond area until the 1st October (LJD: GF: JW: NPW; PKG *et al*) and one was present near pole 64 in the evening (LJD). A further 4 birds were found on the 1st October: one was in the outer dunes of the Point present in the morning only (TC: MC: MG: JW *et al*); one

opposite the Point car park, again in the morning only (DH *et al*); one was near pole 61 which on plumage features was shown to be different to the pole 64 bird (LJD *et al*); an un-ringed bird was found near Blue Bell, then later in the afternoon was along Beacon Lane (DH *et al*). It is likely that all these arrived at Spurn simultaneously, just after lunchtime on the 30th September, when a small fall in north-easterly winds also brought 160 Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, 25 European Robin *Erithacus rubecula,* 11 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and 5 Yellow-browed Warblers, but little else.

Surprisingly, there was only one other bird reported, a single in Church Ravine, Filey CP on 2nd October (PC: SG: RS *et al*).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 23 previous records

In a good "Siberian" autumn, it was surprising that only one bird was found, an individual along the Old Fall Hedge at Flamborough Head on 7th November (DBy).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995

An excellent year, with at least 40 birds reported. Of these 7 were seen inland in the early part of the year, with an additional 5 inland at the end of the year.

A wintering bird remained at Rother Valley CP from 1999 to 8th January. Four more were reported in January, comprising 2 at Howell Wood on 14th January, one in a Chapel Allerton garden on 17th January and one at Sandall Beat Wood, Doncaster from 31st January to 13th February. Birds found in February included one in southwest Sheffield from 24th February to 4th March and one in a Headingley garden on 26th February. Spring passage at Spurn spanned 13 dates between 8th March and 27th April, with daily maxima 2 birds seen on 12th and 20th March, whilst one was at Filey CP on 21st and 22nd March, and inland, a male graced Thorpe Marsh on 19th.

In the autumn, particularly early birds were at Bempton on 25th August and at Flamborough Head on 26th August (BR), indeed these are the earliest ever coastal migrants to have been recorded in the county. At Spurn, birds were recorded occasionally between 24th September and 11th November, including 2 on 21st October and 11th November and 3 on 7th November. At Flamborough Head, at least 6 birds were noted involving singles on 28th and 30th September, 9th October, 21st to 22nd October, 8th to 9th November and 10th November. Filey CP also joined in the action; 2 on 6th November were joined by a third bird on the 9th November, one of which remained to the 19th. In the north of the county at South Gare, one found on the 9th November was joined by a second bird from 11th to 18th, with one remaining to the 19th. Also associated with the fall in early November, were singles at Buckton on 6th, Whitestone Point, Whitby from 6th to 14th, Scarborough Castle on 7th and 11th, Hummersea on 9th, Saltburn on 9th and Hawsker on 11th. A late individual was at Filey CP on 3rd December.

Inland records towards the year-end came from Skelton Castle on 10th November, Skelton Lake on 2nd December, a Balby (Doncaster) garden on 3rd, at Thorpe Marsh on 10th and at Fairburn Ings from 29th to 30th December.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

Unusually there were three spring records of this east European species. The first was the earliest-ever county record, a superb male at Danes Dyke, Flamborough Head on 27th April (DBy: SH). Following on from this was another early bird, this time at Spurn Point in the Canal Hedge on 10th May (JGr); the last being at South Gare on 5th June (HM *et al*).

In the autumn, 3 confirmed records were received: one at Flamborough Head on 28th August (NP); one at Filey CP on 24th September (AN) and 2 at Whitestone Point, Whitby, on the rather late date of 6th November (SMi).

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*
Scarce passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992
Six migrants were noted during the spring. The first was a male heading west along the Humber at Sammy's Point, Easington on 9th May. At Spurn, a "female-type" flew south on 17th May (DPB: DRM), and an adult male was singing in the Wire Dump area on 4th June (GF *et al*). At Flamborough Head an adult female was at Northcliffe on 4th June (BR: SAT *et al*) and an immature male frequented Old Fall on 5th and 6th June (per DBy: SH). A "green" bird was seen at Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay on 6th June (RSS).

In addition, a male and a female were noted at a location in VC 62 between 14th May and 17th June.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus*
Rare vagrant in autumn; 5 previous records
The 6th record for Yorkshire graced Flamborough Head from 8th to 10th November (FXM *et al).* Previous records have hailed from Spurn Point in October 1988, 1991 and 1997 and from Flamborough Head in August 1977 and 1983.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*
Scarce passage migrant; formerly bred
An above average year with 33 birds noted, 19 in spring during an unusually brief and rather late spell between 3rd and 7th June, and 14 in autumn between 2nd September and 25th October. With the exception of one, all were coastal birds.

The first were 2 females at Spurn on 3rd June, but it was Flamborough Head which took the major prizes accounting for 9 birds in total over the period 3rd to 6th June, including 4 birds on 5th (2 males) and 2 new females on the 6th (DBy: SH: PAL *et al*). A male was at Ness Point, (Robin Hood's Bay) on 5th June (PN: BJ), and a male and female that day at Whitestone Point, Whitby. At South Gare a male and female were present from 5th to 6th June (MAB: MC: JF: AJW *et al*). In addition, a male was at East Newton on 5th June (AFJ), a female was along Shaw Lane, Farnham on 6th June (DRJW: PSW) and one was at Bempton on 7th June.

The first of the autumn was a juvenile at Whitestone Point, Whitby seen on both 2nd and 4th September (JAB: NC: AH: RSS *et al*). On the 3rd, an adult male was in South Landing at Flamborough Head and a juvenile was at Kilnsea along Beacon Lane with a female at Scalby Lodge Pond next day (MF: RNH). At Filey CP one was present from 16th to 22nd September (C & RC *et al*), Whilst back at Flamborough Head, a juvenile was at North Landing from 17th to 30th September, 2 juveniles were by the "Roadside Pond" on 25th September and a further juvenile frequented Northcliffe on both 29th September and 2nd October.

Juveniles were also seen at Hawsker from 20th to 21st September (PN: RSS *et al*) and at Ness Point on 21st September (GJS *et al*). In October, singles were at Bempton on 2nd, Sammy's Point, Easington on 3rd and at Coatham Marsh from 25th to 29th (JLS *et al*).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Typically scarce, with just 11 birds recorded. A wintering bird frequented Axle Lane, South Anston from 1st to 9th January (MC: ADH), whilst another graced North Lees, Ripon on 20th February (PMW). One near the lighthouse at Spurn from 12th to 14th April (NAB *et al*) was the first spring record for this well watched site since 1989. Another coastal migrant was noted at North Landing, Flamborough Head from 16th to 17th April (DBy *et al*) and inland, one was at Southfield Res from 7th to 14th May.

The first of the autumn was noted coming in off the sea at Filey CP on 26th September, remaining there the following day (AN *et al*), with one at Swine near Hull on 26th and 27th. One was at Flamborough Head on 17th October (RB), another at Old Moor on 19th and one on Thorne Moors on 25th. One at Bellflask Quarry on 24th and 25th November was the only record in the latter months.

ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus*
Rare vagrant; 19 previous records (20 birds)
A first-summer male, first seen from a kitchen window along Magdalens Road, Ripon on 15th April (DW: PKB *et al*) remained in the area until at least 24th, to the delight of many county listers. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 2 p.56.*

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus*
Scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn; 78 previous records, 2 in winter
Spurn Point is by far and away the premier site in the county for this south European species, so it was no surprise that the only record of the year was a bird flying north over the Warren on 14th May (BRS).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Scarce passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species (first in 1992)
One of the highlights of the summer was the nesting of 2 pairs at Spurn Point. The first birds were seen on 3rd June, with one pair observed nest building on 6th and the other on the 10th. An additional male was also present until at least the 25th, but despite roaming widely between the Point and the church, he failed to attract a mate. Unfortunately breeding could not be proven, the first pair failing in early July and the second either becoming extremely elusive or disappearing altogether. This was the first-ever attempt to breed at Spurn.

The autumn produced a typical scattering of reports, including 5 from Spurn Point. The first was at Northcliffe, Flamborough Head on 2nd September (DBy: SH), on which day one was also at the Warren, Spurn (AAH). Further

sightings from Spurn were of singles on 4th at Wire Dump (DPB), 9th at the Point (PT), with birds at both the Point and the Warren on 11th (DPB: AR *et al*). The only other record was of a single at South Gare on 22nd and 23rd September (JBD *et al*).

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*
Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn
Just 2 records was a dreadful showing for this increasingly rare migrant. The first was at Filey CP on 26th August (JS: JMT) and the second was at the Warren, Spurn Point on 10th September (AR: TR). This trans-Saharan migrant breeds from Spain north-east to western Siberia, and western populations are thought to be in decline due to both habitat loss and hunting pressure.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 32 previous records (33 birds)
Just one record of this Fenno-Scandinavian species; a female found at the Point, Spurn on 4th April, remaining to the 5th (DPB *et al*). This bird appeared following a strong north-easterly which began on the 3rd, and was associated with a small fall of other continental migrants including Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, Redwing *T.iliacus*, European Robin and a Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*
Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 43 previous records
An inland bird at Shepley proved very popular from 14th January to 10th April (TM *et al*), the first time a wintering bird has been located in Yorkshire. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9:1 p.32*. More typical are coastal birds during the autumn. One was seen at dusk on 26th September at South Gare (NAP), whilst at Spurn Point, a mobile bird was present between the Triangle and the Narrows on 30th September and 1st October (GM: DW *et al*). This species, which breeds from northern Norway east to Siberia, is currently expanding its range westwards.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*
Rare vagrant; 5 previous records
A bird seen briefly along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 3rd September (JTH), was caught on camera and could be positively identified as this species from the photographs. Only the sixth fully accepted record for Yorkshire, although the fourth from the Spurn area.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*
Rare vagrant; 3 previous records
The fourth for Yorkshire was the first to ever be twitchable. A fine male was present at Flamborough Head from 8th to 12th July (NP *et al*). This migratory species breeds in south-east Europe as close as southern Italy, across to the western Caspian region, wintering in India. Most records are of over-shooting migrants in

May and June, but it leaves the breeding grounds early, often in July. Unfortunately it is also commonly kept in captivity, but this record has been accepted by **BBRC** without *caveat.*

Desert Wheatear, Boulby Cliffs, 12th November 2000
J. Harriman

CATEGORY B

Species that were recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but are not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then. Ruddy Shelduck has now been moved into this category.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*
Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status
A drake was at North Cave Wetlands on 5th August.

CATEGORY D

Species whose status is being monitored the **BOURC** (see *Ibis 136: p253*).

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*
Rare visitor/escaped species
A juvenile complete with jesses at Barden on 28th September and 8th October.

CATEGORY E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*
The escapes of this species are treated in the main systematic list.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*
One was in Albert Park, Middlesbrough on 11th October, and later seen north of the Tees.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*
One resided throughout the year on the lake at Castle Howard, with one also resident on Wetwang pond. In the Harrogate district, one frequented Hay-a-Park GP and Nosterfield NR from 1st to 17th January. A single was with Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* at Aughton on 4th January, the same bird flying north at Wheldrake Ings later the same day. One was at Sutton Mill Dam on 14th February and one was on the River Derwent at Buttercrambe on 20th March. Two flew north past Flamborough Head on 12th July and 2 (the same?) flew down the Humber at Spurn Point on 17th August, having been seen earlier on BPNR. One was at Staveley NR on 30th September, and one flew over Sharow with 4 Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* on 14th December.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

One was present at Fairburn Ings from 22nd to 31st January and then again from 1st to 11th March, and for a longer period from 3rd June to 18th July, seen mainly on the flashes. One was at Nosterfield NR on several dates during January, June and August to December. Singles were at Leventhorpe Hall pond on 5th March, Skelton Lake on 1st June and Swillington Ings on 20th September and one was at Swinsty Res on 4 dates between mid-June and late December. Three circled Spurn several times on 6th May before flying off north and 4 flew south there on 22nd May.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

Two were resident at Fairburn Ings all year. Two "white-phased" birds were seen at Harewood Park on 16th January, 12th February and 12th March with a "blue-phased" bird there on 17th December. A "white-phased" bird was at Blacktoft Sands on 30th January and again from 4th to 13th October. A "blue-phased" bird was at Staveley NR on 6th August. Several hybrids of Snow x Canada/Barnacle *Branta canadensis/B. leucopsis* parentage were noted in the Harrogate area.

Addition to the 1998 Report: at Eccup Res 3 birds were present on 9th August and subsequently 2 birds on six separate dates between 18th August and 2nd September.

Additions to the 1999 Report: a "white-phase" bird was at Eccup Res on 22nd August with a "blue-phase" bird on 4th December. One was at Lindley Wood Res on 26th December.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus*

A bird was at Eccup Res on 12th March and regularly from 12th October to the end of the year.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Addition to 1998 Report: a bird showing the characteristics of the race *B. c. minima* was in the main flock at Harewood Park on several visits through the year (P R Morris).

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

Rare vagrant; kept in captivity

One at Farnham GP on 17th August was believed to have escaped from a private collection near York. It subsequently toured North Yorkshire, putting in appearances in August at Hay-a-Park GP on 19th and Staveley NR on both 26th and 27th; in September at Hay-a-Park GP on 2nd and Nosterfield NR on 23rd; in October at Staveley NR on 2nd, Bellflask Quarry from 5th to 7th and Nosterfield NR from 14th to 16th. In November it appeared at Nosterfield NR on 16th and 25th and at Bellflask Quarry again on 18th, and in December was back at Nosterfield NR on 3rd and 4th. All records in 2000 are believed to have involved this same escaped individual.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschat*
Three frequented Dowley Gap between 21st January and 24th October and one was at Redcar Tarn from 26th August to 27th December.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*
One at Esholt Sewage Works on 15th April.

YELLOWBILL DUCK *Anas undulata*
A bird seen at Addingham.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL *Anas bahamensis*
One was at Leventhorpe Hall pond on 14th, 17th and 18th July.

BALD EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
An immature seen on Dallowgill Moor on 18th and 23rd September had escaped from the Settle Bird of Prey Centre, and had been at large for 45 days. It was presumably the same bird that was subsequently reported from Littlehope and Marton-le-Moor.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*
One flew south to the Point at Spurn on 4th March and remained there on 5th before flying back north.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*
Escaped or deliberately released species; has bred
One at Crook Moor, Thorganby on 13th March and a male on a roadside verge near Tockwith, Harrogate on 1st June were no doubt escapes. Although nationally it is a Category C species, at county level it appears to be simply an escape; breeding has been reported from Whitcliffe Woods near Richmond in the past, but this released population appears to be no longer extant.

PEACOCK *Pavo cristatus*
One visited a Nunnington garden on 1st April.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*
One at Filey on 30th January.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT *Psittacus erithacus*
A free-flying bird was seen at Burley on 2nd October.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri*
One first reported in 1997 in the St. Chad's area of Middlesbrough was seen regularly throughout the year. In addition one was captured in Malton on 28th May.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*
A bird that has remained in the Queensbury and Shibden area for the last three years was seen on 30th May. The *Halifax Evening Courier* reported that on the 4th February the owl attacked and carried off a dog, that subsequently escaped and survived the experience following veterinary treatment. One breeding pair is still present in the north of the county.

YELLOW-SHOULDERED WIDOWBIRD *Euplectes macrourus*
One at Filey on 24th August.

COMMON CANARY *Serinus canaria*
One at South Gare on 20th May.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY/GREEN SINGING FINCH *Serinus mozambicus*
One at Spurn Point on 8th August. Also in August, one was trapped at Filey CP on 22nd.

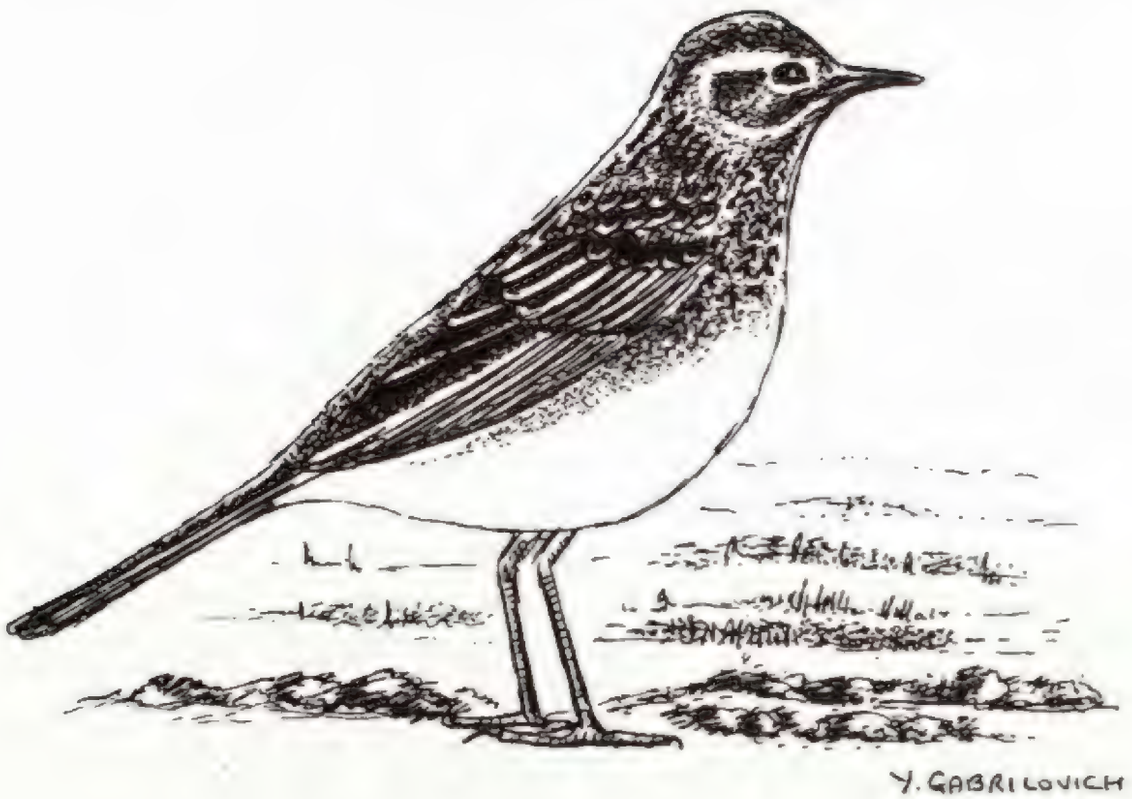
CHINESE GROSBEAK *Eophona migratoria*
A female flew south at Spurn Point on 17th May, its identity being confirmed when later watched at the Point.

BLACK-FACED BUNTING *Emberiza spodocephala*
Rare vagrant or escape
A male, of the nominate and most migratory race *E. m. spodocephala,* was found at Spurn Point on 13th May (DPB *et al*) remaining until 14th. This record was accepted by **BBRC** as relating to an escape, since the bird had a slightly elongate upper mandible, and by 14th, had also sustained some damage to its right eye and displayed some ruffled rump feathers, although this damage had not been noted when the bird was first found.

This migratory species breeds in central and eastern Asia from the western Altai mountains east to the Sea of Okhotsk and south to Japan and China, wintering in Korea, southern Japan, eastern and southern China and northern Indo-China. In spring, the main arrival in southern Russia is given as mid-May to mid-June, and it is not present in the Altai until June (*BWP Vol. 9 p. 140*). It is trapped in China, and captive birds are available in this country. European records have usually been in November, although the Spurn bird mirrors closely one on Heligoland, Germany, from 23rd to 26th May 1980, and birds returning north after arriving the previous autumn cannot be discounted. Is the Spurn bird any more of an escape than any of the other European records?

ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata*
One fell prey to a cat at Filey on 22nd January, whilst another was seen there on 4th November.

AFRICAN MASKED WEAVER *Ploceus velatus*
One at Spurn Point on 9th July.



ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*
1998: One was at Knotford Nook on 19th November.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*
1998: The winter-plumaged bird was at Skelton Lake, not Swillington Ings on 24th August.
1999: A bird was at Skelton Lake from 5th to 7th April. In autumn one was at Swillington Ings from 28th August to 9th September with a different bird from 20th September to 11th October. The bird reported at Mickletown Ings on 18th September was possibly one of the above birds. The bird reported at Skelton Lake on 24th October remained until 7th November.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*
1995: One flew north off Barmston on 30th August, alighting briefly on the sea (PP).

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*
1999: A first-summer was seen just before midday on 9th May flying over RVCP (PS). This was presumably the same bird as the one reported the next day from Thrybergh CP, previously published. (The second observer of the Thrybergh bird was P Burke, not P Leonard).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*
1998: One was circling high over Moortown on 13th April whilst one flew north on 2nd May over Swillington Ings and Swillington Park. Two flew over Ox Close on 7th June and 2 flew north over Swillington Ings on 13th September. Up to 3 birds were regularly seen close to Harewood Lake in the park in the first half of the year with 4 present from October.
1999: One was in a field near Harewood Saw Mill on 11th February; one circled Eccup Res. before drifting off north on 3rd May; one flew west over Swillington Ings on 4th May; one was back at Eccup Res. on 9th May having been seen flying over Alwoodley earlier in the day and one flew over Leventhorpe Hall pond towards Swillington Park on 18th May. All records undoubtedly refer to the free-flying birds from Harewood Park where up to 4 birds were seen regularly throughout the year.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
1991: Two were at Hornsea Mere between 26th April and 10th May.
1998: One was on the River Wharfe at Knotford Nook with other geese on 27th March.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*
1998: A female was at Swillington Ings on 4th, 8th and 18th January whilst a male was at Golden Acre Park on 28th January, 24th February and 19th and 26th April. Birds were present at Harewood Park throughout the year with up to 8 birds seen on the lake. It was presumably 3 of these birds that were seen on a beck near Weardley on 12th April. A male returned to Golden Acre Park on 11th October and was also seen on 17th and 25th November and 11th December. An employee on the Harewood Estate reported up to 10 pairs breeding in the vicinity of the lake, although no young were seen on any visits by Leeds Birdwatchers' Club members.
1999: At Golden Acre Park a male was seen on 11th January, 7th February, 11th and 24th April, 31st May, 11th October and 3rd November. At Harewood Park, after 3 on 21st February, birds were seen up to 7th November with a maximum of 6 on this last date. A pair bred rearing 2 young. At Swillington Ings, 2 eclipse males were present on 4th November. Finally, at Eccup Res a male was present on 27th November

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*
1998: The drake that had been present in the Nottinghamshire part of the Idle Valley made a brief appearance in the county at Newington near Bawtry on 5th April (JW).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*
1998: A female was at Swillington Ings from 31st August to 17th September being seen at Skelton Lake on 13th September. Perhaps the same bird was at Eccup Res on 25th and 27th November and 12th, 21st and 22nd December.
1999: Single females were at Yeadon Tarn on 13th March, Farnley Balance Res on 5th April, 10th August and 17th September.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*
1998: A male was at Swillington Ings on 19th February (GMB) and then daily from 24th February to 3rd March. It reappeared on 14th and 16th March but then disappeared until 12th June after which date it was seen up to 5th July. A male at Altoft Ings on 21st February (PRM) could have been the same individual.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*
1996: One flew northwest at Cullingworth on 9th July (KM).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*
1999: A "ring-tail", identified as a juvenile, was at Swillington Ings mid-morning on 14th August before being chased away by a Peregrine (PRM *et al.*).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*
1991: One at Winscar Res 3 miles west of Penistone on 2nd November (AA: DJS).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
1998: Singles, perhaps just one individual, were reported from Eccup Res on both 25th June and 11th July. One was at Knotford Nook on 19th September.
1999: Singles flew north through the Derwent Valley on 2nd, 3rd and 23rd April, and on 17th May. One bird lingered in this area, to be seen over York on 14th May, at New Earswick on 15th May and 11th June and on a number of other dates. Returning birds were noted at Melbourne on the Pocklington Canal on 21st August, whilst in September, three more records involved singles at North Duffield Carrs on 6th, at Wheldrake Ings on 7th and at North Duffield on 24th.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*
1999: One was at Potteric Carr on 20th September.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*
1999: One seen well, but briefly, at Blacktoft Sands on 27th August (PRM).

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*
1998: A bird seen with Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* in fields to the north of Eccup Res on 9th May (SPS) was considered to be a female due to the brightness of its plumage. It constituted the first documented record for the Leeds area. Three were seen on Ingleborough on 17th May. Several trips of between 4 to 58 birds frequented Upper Nidderdale between 9th and 27th May.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*
1999: Correction: a record published in the *YNU Rare and Scarce Bird Report 1998-1999*, of one at Fairburn Ings from 27th to 29th August 1999 (JG *et al*), should have been for 2000 and details are in the main Systematic List here.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphia*
1999: A winter-plumaged adult was seen in Bridlington Bay on the morning of 27th November (PP). This record has now been reviewed and accepted by **BBRC**, and constitutes the fourth county record. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 9: 1 p.29.*

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus argentatus michahellis*
1998: A sub-adult bird (probably in its third year) was seen at Swillington Ings on 9th May.
1999: An adult was at Sammy's Point on 17th October.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*
1998: A single first-winter bird was seen at Swillington Ings on 13th to 14th and 20th to 21st March.
1999: An adult roosted at Ardsley Res. on 12th January.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*
1998: A second-winter roosted with other gulls in a field near the Peckfield Pit landfill site (just south of Micklefield village) on 25th January.
1999: A first-winter at Eccup Res. on 13th February.

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*
1998: A juvenile was seen twice for short periods at Swillington Ings in the afternoon of 30th October (GYL: GPKL) and was seen even more briefly at Skelton Lake on the next morning (JNS: PB). It is presumed to be the same bird as the one already accepted at Dewsbury SF on 11th October. Only the second record for the Leeds area, following one at Swillington Ings on 13th September 1993.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
1999: One was at Cloughton Wyke on 16th October (NCD: AW: AZ).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*
1998: On 17th January at least 2 of 7 large pipits at Skelton Lake were this species.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*
1998: One was recorded singing from dense hawthorn scrub on the north side of Thorp Arch Trading Estate near Wetherby from 27th April to 15th May (MK).

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*
1996: One was in the "point bushes" at Spurn on 23rd September (EW: IE: AB).

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
Scarce migrant, more common in autumn
1999: One was at Thrybergh CP on 28th November (PL).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*
1994: one was at Lower Lewden near Barnsley on 8th and 9th March.
1999: a singing male was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 24th May.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*
Rare migrant and winter visitor
1995: A first-winter male was at Fairburn Ings NR on 20th December (GT) and again on 27th and 28th (JG *et al*).
1996: One was at Fairburn Ings from 3rd February intermittently to 31st March with 3 present on 17th and 2 on 18th (JG *et al*).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. They have either submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editors thank all who have submitted records.

C Abbott
Mrs P Abbott
J Ackroyd
Mrs J Ackroyd
R Adams
N W Addey
H Addlesee
J Alcock [JA]
P J Alker
R H Appleby
A Archer
W E Arnott
M R K Askew
N Askew
J E Atkinson
D J Bacon [DJBa]
P Bagguley [PB]
P & T Bailey
R Baines [RBa]
D J Bamforth
D C Barker
J Barker
T J Barker
R Barnes
M Barnett
P Baxter
J M Bayldon
B Beaumont
J A Beaumont
B Beck
P A Beckingham
The late N A Bell
P Bell [PBe]
S M Bird
M A Blick
T Bliss
A J Booth
W I Boustead
D P Boyle
D Braithwaite
S Brebner
D J Britton [DJBn]
P Brookes
R Brown [RBr]
G M Brunton
H O Bunce
P Burke [PBu]
M Butt
J Butterworth
P Butterworth
D Bywater [DBy]
K A Capps
P J Carlton
G Carr [GCa]
R Carrington
D Carroll
C A Carson
N Carter
M & J Clay
R Chaplin
G Chapman
T Charman
T Cleeves [TCl]
E Clubley
S Cochrane
A Cockcroft
I Coleman
P Colley
T Collins [TCo]
J Colwell
D Constantine
M Corner [MCo]
C & R Court
M Coverdale
A Credland
I Crowther
P Cunningham
W F Curtis
M Cutting [MCu]
N Dales
B F Damper
N C Dawtrey
G Dayes
L J Degnan
K Denny
P Dent
A Devine
G E Dobbs
M Doveston
P J Dunn
J B Dunnett
R Elliot [RE]
I Emmett
B Emson
R Evison
S Exley
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L Gillard
T Girling
J Glendinning
J H Goddard
S Goodwin
K R Gould
A Grainger
R Greasley
P K Greaves
S Green [SGr]
B H Greenacre
A Grieve
M Grindle
J Grist [JGr]
M J Grunwell
J-Y Guilloson
T Guilloson
G L Haigh
A Hanby
R E Harbird
J T Harriman
C Harris
J Harwood
R Haywood
C Healey
E J Hediger
D Hertley
W Hesketh
J Hewitt [JHe]
S Hey
J Higgins [JHi]
S Hitchen
D Hoare
D G Hobson
T L Hobson
K Hodgson
R N Hopper
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S Hull [SHu]
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D A Hunter
D Hursthouse
A A Hutt
L Hutt
G Iceton
T Isherwood
P V Irving
G Jackson [GJa]
N Jackson
S Jobling
A F Johnson
J Johnson
S Johnson
A Jowett
G Joynt
F E Kenington
M Kirby
H Koll
A Lajkja
P A Lassey
G Lawlor
I H Leach
G P K Leach
J Y Leach
P Leonard
T Lewis
S Lindrop
J K Lister
N Littlewood
I Lonsdale
R J Lowe
R Lyon
J McLoughlin [JMc]
T Malkin
D Manchester [DMa]
D Mansell
P Mansfield
I Marshall
J Martin
S Martin
J R Mather

T Melling
G Metcalf
M G Metcalfe
P Metcalfe
A Mettam
D R Middleton
S Mills [SMi]
H Mitchell
F X Moffatt
K Moir
D A Money
C Moore
S Morfitt [SMo]
N J Morgan
B & S Morland
P R Morris
P L Mountain
K R Mudd
P Musgrave
S Mylan [SMy]
M G Neal
P Newton
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A O'Neill
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E C Parker
N Parker
S Pashby
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A Paulls
J M Pearson
C J Pendlebury
C J H Percy
P Peringer
N Pickering [NPi]
M J Pilsworth
D Pope
JA Porter
R Poyner
N A Preston
D Priestley
R Priestley
R Prior

C S Ralston
T Reid
K Rich
B R Richards
T Richardson
G Rickers
A Roadhouse
I Robinson
T Rogers
J A Rowlands
J Sanderson [JSa]
D J Scanlan
P M Scanlan
R Scullion
A Scutt
J E Seeviour
G Sellars
K Senior
N P Senior
M N Sewell
J L Sharp
J Shepherd
I Simms
D J Simpson
L F Singleton
S P Singleton
R S Slack
C Slator
M A Small
M A Smethurst
D M Smith
J N Smith
P Smith [PSm]
T Smollett
J Sockley
G J Speight
B R Spence
R J Sprakes
D J Standring
E C Sterne
H R Sterne
A F Stoyle
M F Stoyle
M G Stoyle

P Strickland
P Sutton
R Swales
J Taylor
G C Taylor
R C Taylor
C C Thomas
G Thomas [GTh]
J Thompson
R I Thorpe
P Tilley
S Tilley
P Tomlinson
J L Topham
P T Treloar
J M Turton
S Van der Vew
H Venables
D M Waddington
S Wadsworth
B P Wainwright
H Walker
D R J Watkins
D Ward
J Ward
F A Wardman
A Warmby
J & S P Warwick
P Waterton
G V Watola
I Webster
P S Wells
S D Wellock
A J Wheeldon
P M White
A Whitehead
H J Whitehead
N P Whitehouse
M Whorley
S Wignill
D J Williams
E Williams
B Wilson
R Wilson

D Woodford [DWo] S Worwood [SWo] A Zabukas
D Woodmansey J Wozencroft [JWo]

LOCAL REPORTS

The following local society and club reports have been received, and readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Bradford Ornithological Group 2000
Cleveland Bird Report 2000 (Teesmouth Bird Club)
Doncaster Bird Report 2000 (Doncaster & District Ornithological Society)
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve Report No. 32, 2000
Filey Brigg Bird Report 2000 (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
Five Towns Report 1998, 1999 (Five Towns Bird Group)
Flamborough Head Bird Report 2000 (Flamborough Head Ornithological Group)
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2000
Hull Valley Report 2000 (Hull Valley Wildlife Group)
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club 1998, 1999, 2000
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar/SPA monthly sheets Jan, Feb, Dec
Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Report 1999
Scarborough District Bird Report 2000 (The Scalby Nabs Ornithological Group)
South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters)
Spurn Wildlife No. 10 (Spurn Bird Observatory)
Whitby Bird Report 2000
York Ornithological Club Report 2000

Reports and lists were also received from:
Beacon Lane Ponds and Holderness Logs; Fairburn Ings; Halifax Birdwatchers' Group, Lower Derwent Valley monthly sheets; Pudsey Ornithological Club and Thorne Moors.

DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by **BBRC** to be included in the **YNU** report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to **BBRC**. **BBRC** do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by **BBRC** for publication in their *Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain* is available from *British Birds*.

County Rarities

Descriptions are required for the species listed below.

Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Balearic Shearwater
British Storm-petrel (sight records)
Leach's Storm-petrel
Little Egret
Purple Heron
Bean Goose (to race/species)
Ruddy Shelduck
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Surf Scoter
European Honey Buzzard
White-tailed Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Spotted Crake
Corn Crake
Common Crane
Stone-curlew
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope
Pomarine Skua [inland records only]
Long-tailed Skua [inland records only]
Ring-billed Gull
Sabine's Gull [inland records only]
Roseate Tern [inland records only]
Black Guillemot
European Bee-eater
Greater Short-toed Lark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Cetti's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler (inland records)
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Eurasian Golden Oriole
Woodchat Shrike
Red-billed Chough
European Serin
Common Rosefinch
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Little Bunting

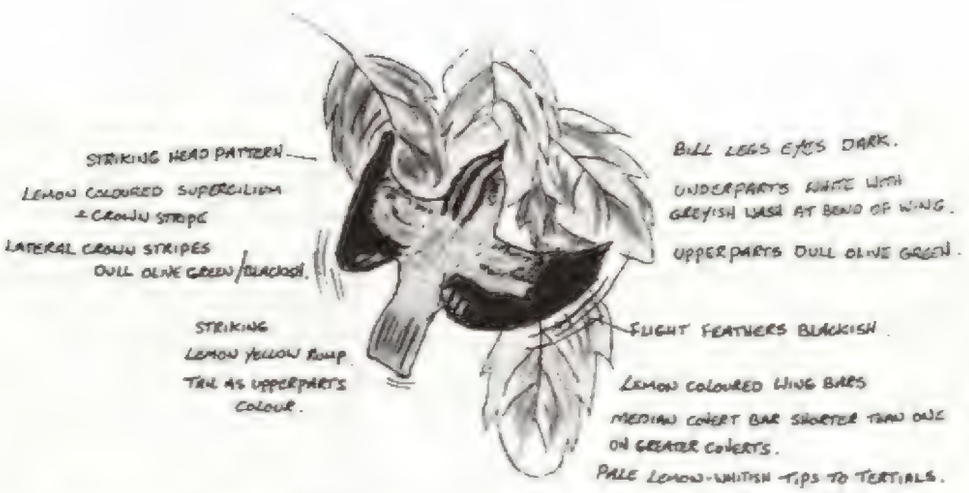
Balearic Shearwater, Little Egret and coastal records of Sabine's Gull and Roseate Tern have been removed from the species requiring descriptions as from 1st January 2002, although we are willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local Groups and Societies. Black-

crowned Night-Heron, American Wigeon, and Rosy Starling have been added to the list from 1st January 2002, as these three species will no longer be considered by **BBRC** from that date. In addition, in the cases of closely related species groups such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, pratincole sp. and dowitcher sp. where no specific identification has been reached, **BBRC** will not judge these records either. They will be added to the **YNU** list for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms for submitting details based upon those by the **BBRC** can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by e-mail from the editors.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee **may** request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail) or to support records of migrant birds out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances. The Committee **will** require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review (e.g. Siberian Chiffchaff, Caspian Gull).


STRIKING HEAD PATTERN
LEMON COLOURED SUPERCILIUM & CROWN STRIPE
LATERAL CROWN STRIPES DULL OLIVE GREEN/BLACKISH.
STRIKING LEMON YELLOW RUMP. TAIL AS UPPERPARTS COLOUR.
BILL LEGS EYES DARK.
UNDERPARTS WHITE WITH GREYISH WASH AT BEND OF WING.
UPPERPARTS DULL OLIVE GREEN.
FLIGHT FEATHERS BLACKISH.
LEMON COLOURED WING BARS
MEDIAN COVERT BAR SHORTER THAN ONE ON GREATER COVERTS.
PALE LEMON-WHITISH TIPS TO TERTIALS.

PALLAS'S WARBLER SEEN IN TOP SCRUB NEAR SPUR AREA WITH C12 GOLDCREST AND 1 CHIFFCHAFF. FEEDING IN ROSE AND PRIVET BUSHES AND ALSO ON GROUND. A FAST MOVING WARBLER FLITTING ABOUT AND OCCASIONALLY HOVERING TO PICK FOOD ITEMS FROM UNDER LEAVES.

THIS BIRD WAS FOUND BY A BIRDER FROM YORK EARLIER IN THE DAY AND WAS LOOKED FOR BY SEVERAL LOCALS BUT NOT RELOCATED UNTIL MY SIGHTING.

field notes by A. Norris

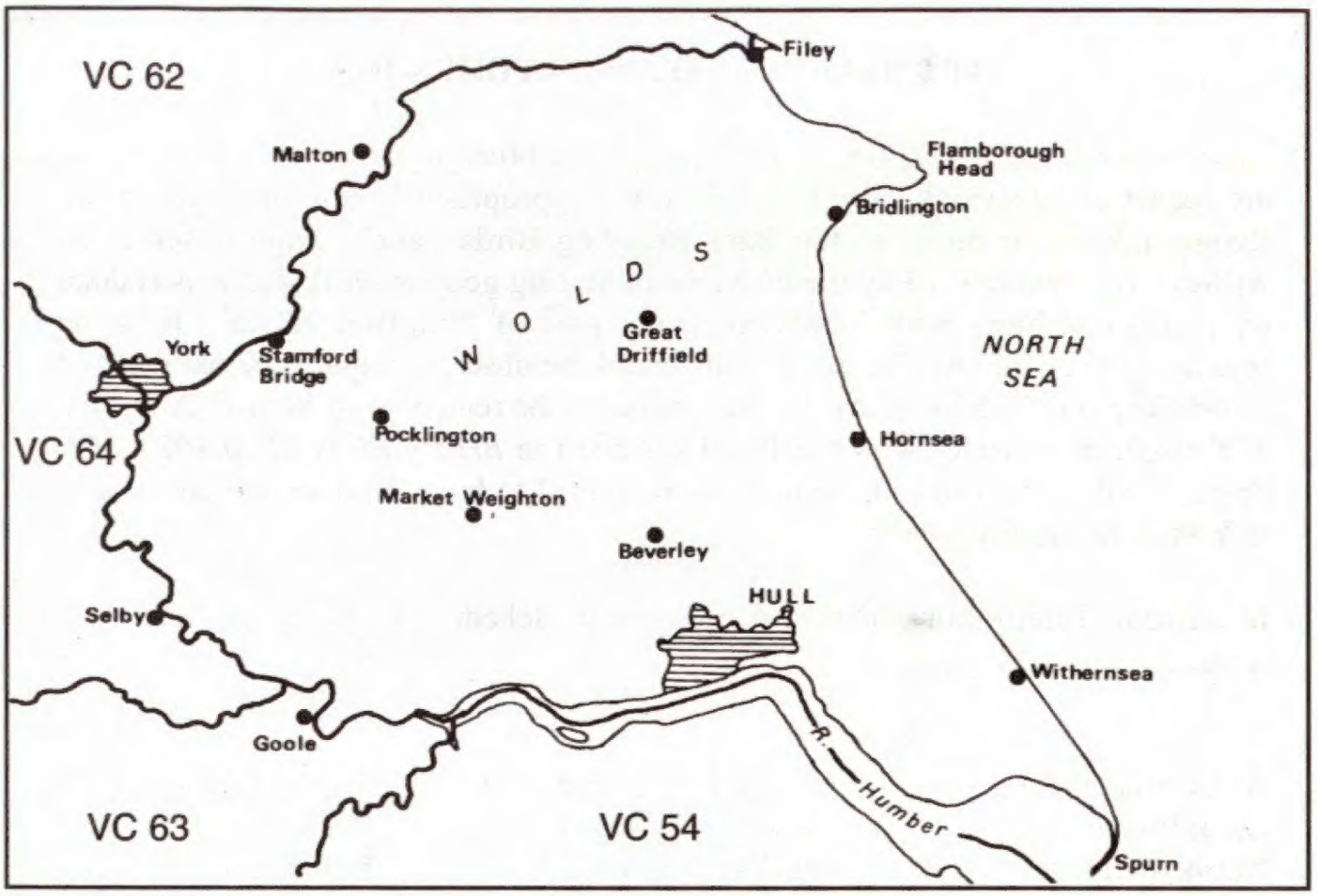
RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN YORKSHIRE

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder, Report Editors or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, if the observer so wishes. The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds 81: p 102 - 103.* Species that are known to have bred, or attempted to have done so in recent years, in Yorkshire, are listed below.

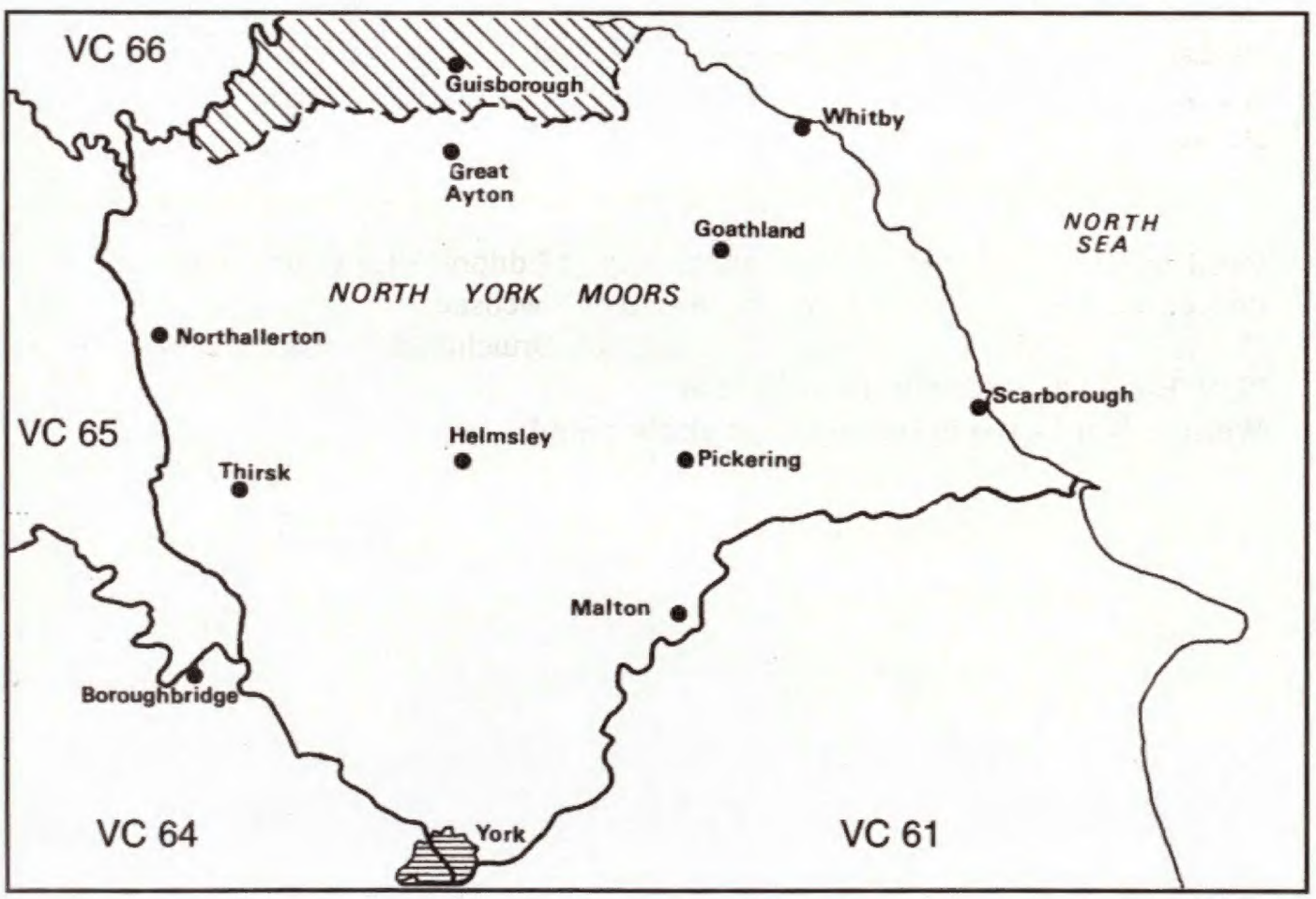
In addition, brief outline details of numbers of Schedule 1 species are requested [area, numbers and success].

Black-necked Grebe
Great Bittern
Northern Pintail
Garganey
Common Pochard
European Honey Buzzard
Eurasian Marsh Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Northern Goshawk
Eurasian Hobby
Common Quail
Spotted Crake
Corn Crake
Black-tailed Godwit
Little Gull
Eurasian Golden Oriole
Bluethroat
Black Redstart
Fieldfare
Parrot Crossbill
Common Rosefinch

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editors, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP's website.
Dr. M. A. Ogilvie, Secretary RBBP, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN. E-mail RBBP@indaal.demon.co.uk
Website: http://www.indaal.demon.co.uk/rbbp.html



V. C. 61 South East Yorkshire



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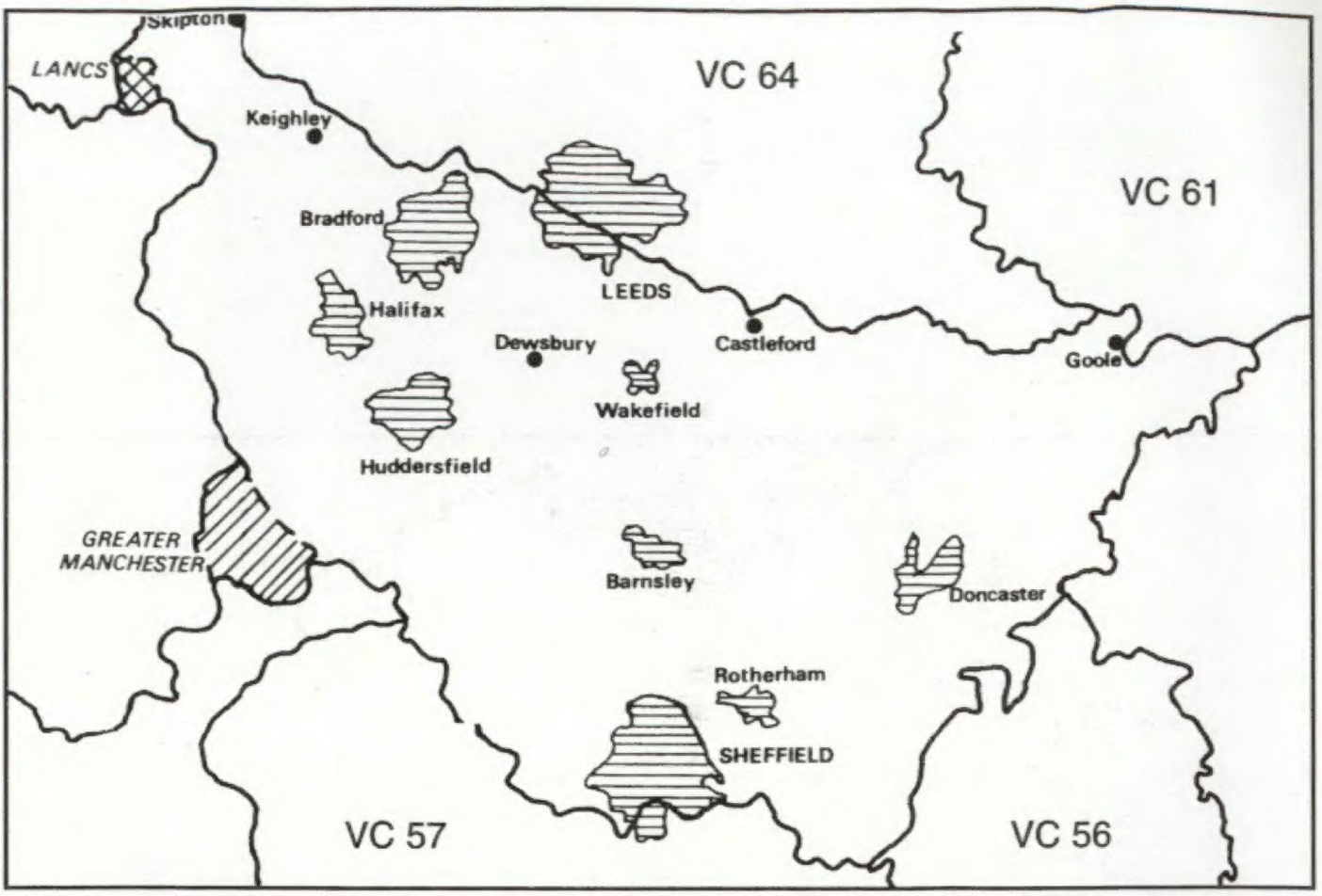

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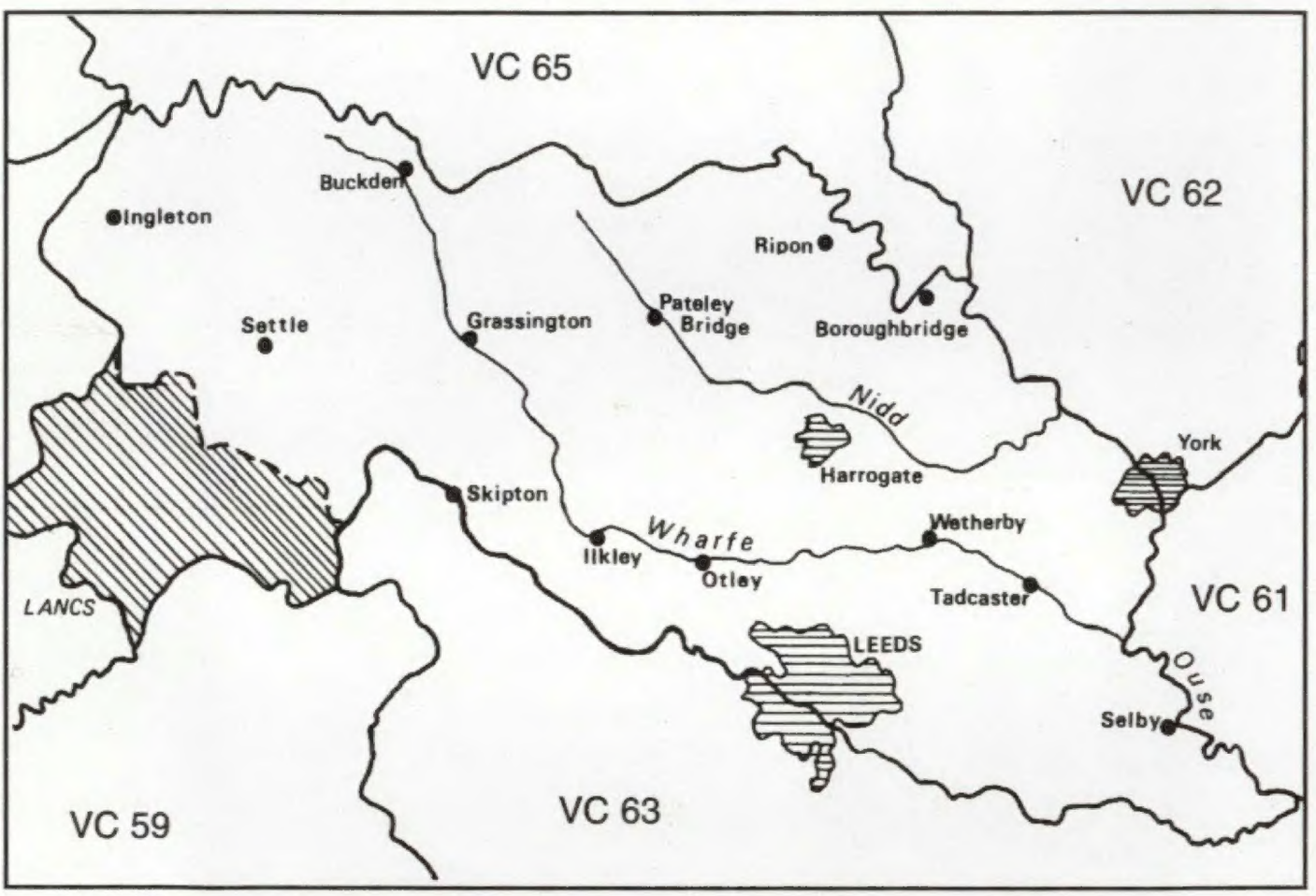

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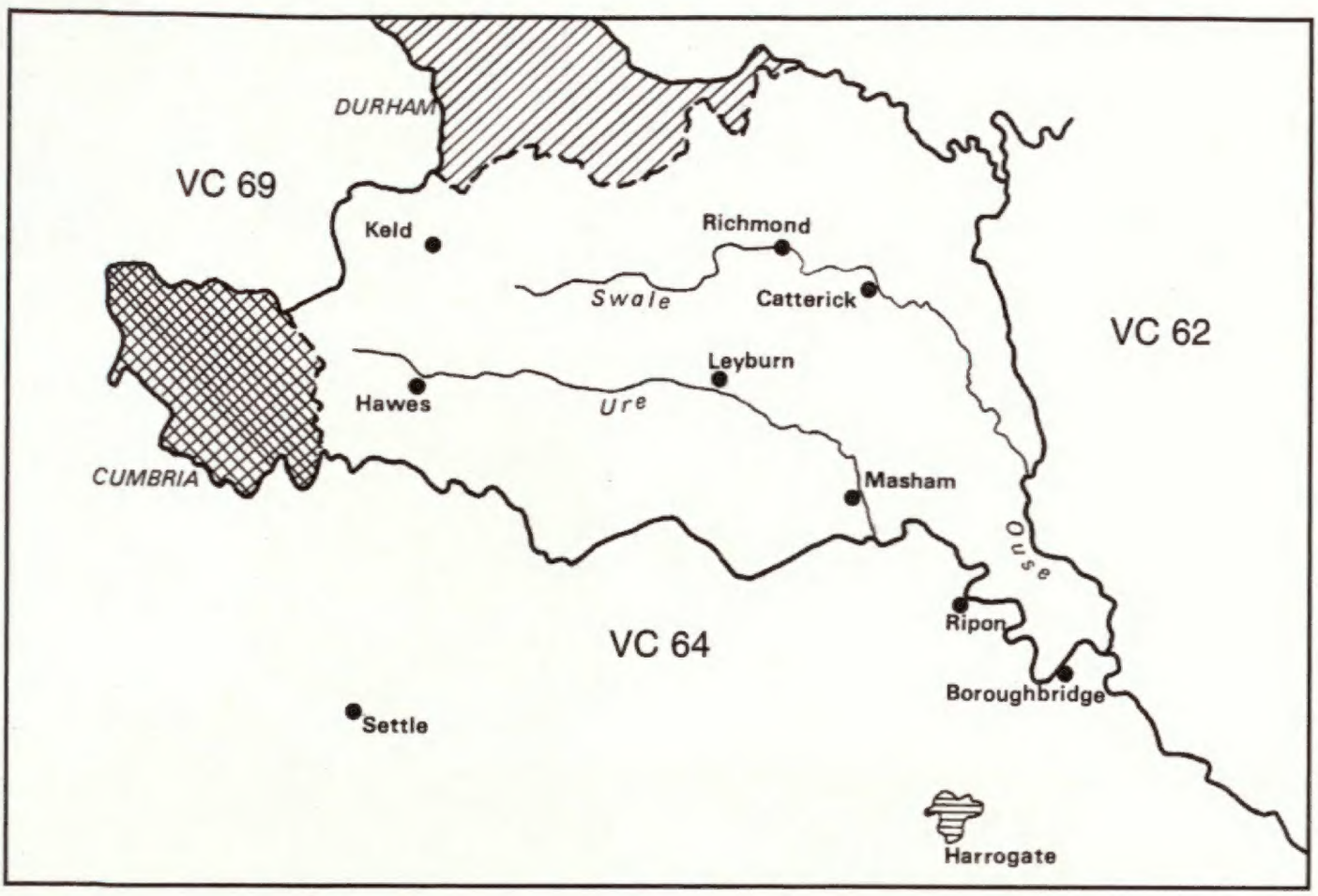

V. C. 65 North West Yorkshire

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